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Inter-Arab Affairs

Israel Said To Be Considering Military Strike

JN1205190790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 May 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed Arab sources have reported that Israel is currently considering a military strike against Jordan and Iraq in the event an agreement on a unified military plan is reached by them at the coming Baghdad summit. The sources said that Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli prime minister-designate, held an important meeting last week with the commanders of Israeli intelligence services and his political advisers. Their discussions concerned statements by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Jordan's King Husayn related to laying down strategic Arab foundations to ensure the protection of pan-Arab security against any external threat.

It has been learned that, during the meeting, the commanders of the military intelligence services presented a joint report in which they noted that the security plan to be submitted by Jordan and Iraq to the summit poses a direct threat to Israel's security. The report also said that the two countries agreed at a recent meeting in Baghdad to support terrorist operations by extremists against Israeli society, as the sources put it. The report recommended that a preemptive military strike be launched to prevent the Arab states from implementing any plan of this kind.

The sources went on to say that Shamir asked Israeli intelligence to monitor Arab contacts on this matter and agreed to consider the possibility of mounting a strike against military positions in both countries. Shamir will hold another meeting in the next few days to follow up the situation in light of the current developments.

'Arab Contacts' Urging Syria To Attend Summit

JN1205172090 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 May 90 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Capitals, AL-ANBA' and news agencies—[passage omitted] Regarding the possibility of Syria attending the summit, a senior Arab League official said that intensive Arab contacts are still underway to convince Syria to attend. He said that it had been suggested that Syria be represented at the summit by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam or Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The official did not rule out the possibility of al-Asad attending in a last minute surprise if Arab efforts to convince him to come to Baghdad succeed.

The official added that Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general, has made efforts with Arab officials to convince Syria to attend.

Regarding Syria's call for an extraordinary meeting of Arab foreign ministers to discuss the summit venue and date, the Arab League official said that the Arab League has received Syria's request and it has been distributed to member states. As of today (yesterday), however, we have not received acceptance to attend from any state, the official said.

Arab League Issues Statement on Immigration

LD1505124890 Kuwait KUNA in English 1055 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tunis, May 15 (KUNA)—The Arab League Tuesday warned that silence over Israel's bid to attract thousands of Jewish immigrants and resettle them in occupied Palestine is tantamount to undermining current peace efforts and blocking the way before any settlement that may lead to permanent peace and security in the Middle East. A League statement, on the anniversary day of usurpation of Palestine falling today, said the occasion coincides this year with an influx of fresh Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and East European countries to occupied Palestine.

Portrayed as in respect to human rights, the League reminded that the immigration infringes upon rights of an entire people in Palestine. It recalled Israel's continuous defiance of the international community's will and resolutions as well as its rejection of all peace initiatives including the Palestinian offer based on U.N. resolutions and guaranteeing security of all states in the region.

The League accused the Tel Aviv authorities of being bent on realizing the dream of greater Israel by expansion and continuous annexation of Arab lands, thereby opening the way for renewed armed conflicts and threatening regional and world peace.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic Call Organization Meets in Khartoum

EA1305081090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] Yesterday evening, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, addressed the final sitting of the 11th session of the Board of Trustees of the Islamic Call Organization held at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum. At the start of his speech, his excellency welcomed the guests from the Arab and Islamic countries taking part in the proceedings of this session. He praised the members' deliberations, which have centered on the concerns of the Muslims and man in Africa.

Maj. Gen. al-Zubayr confirmed the support of the revolution and its backing for the organization so that it can perform the role assigned to it. He said that the dangerous challenges which currently face the Islamic nation require concerted efforts and Arab-Islamic solidarity to confront them. His excellency referred to the Islamic awakening now being witnessed by the Islamic world and its role in facing up to the challenges. The major general also praised the

activities of the Islamic Call Organization and what it provided for man in Africa in all fields. He said that the Salvation Revolution welcomes the decision to base the headquarters of the organization in Sudan.

The session was also addressed by Field Marshal, retired, 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Ahmad Hasan Siwar al-Dhahab, the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the organization, who pointed out that this session of the board must be considered as the most successful ever due to the attendance and participation of Arab and African countries as well as observers and scholars. His excellency called for the expansion of the Islamic Call and relief to protect the Muslim nation from the dangers of the desertification facing it.

Mr. Mubarak Qismallah, the organization's seccretary general, presented the final report, which contained a number of recommendations. The board confirmed through these recommendations its faith in the Islamic aims and (?objectives) that the organization is working for. The secretary general reiterated his call to all governments, organizations, and men of goodwill to provide assistance for the organization to enable it to carry out its good work in Africa. The report praised the efforts of the Salvation Revolution to quell the flames of war in the southern Sudan and its steady work for the maintenance of man's cultural identity and its efforts (?for economic) [word indistinct].

The report also detailed the activities of the organization this year in Sudan. It called on Islamic countries and organizations, as well as the wealthy and businessmen and all countries of the world, to support Sudan and participate in (?investment in it) in all fields. [passage indistinct]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Envoy in Jordan Denies Fighters Moving

JN0905102990 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 May 90 p 1

Amman—AFP: PLO representative in Jordan al-Tayib 'Abd-al-Rahim yesterday denied reports that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat had decided to send 2,500 Palestinian fighters stationed in Jordan to Iraq to defend the country against a possible Israeli attack.

In a statement to AFP yesterday, Palestine's Ambassador in Amman al-Tayib 'Abd-al-Rahim dismissed the report as groundless.

Press reports had mentioned a decision by Yasir 'Arafat ordering all Palestinian military officials, including the reserve stationed in Jordan, to move to Iraq before 15 May to defend that country against a possible Israeli aggression and to undergo training.

PLO Calls Arab Leaders To Face Responsibilities

LD1505184590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] On the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, the PLO has issued a political statement in which it called for confronting the danger of the emigration of Soviet Jews and the establishment of Greater Israel.

The statment said: The PLO is obliged, today more than at any previous time, to place the Arab leaders, especially at the summit, and the Arab liberation movements in general before their historic responsibilities of confronting the danger of the Jewish emigration, and supporting and consolidating the glorious uprising, apart from which the Arabs have nothing with which to confront the Zionist enemy. The Arabs should confront the Zionist enemy by politically and financially consolidating and supporting the glorious uprising and also using the media and every means for this purpose.

A week ago, the uprising in the occupied territories entered its 30th month. It is now more committed and insistent on achieving freedom and independence. It is more insistent on the right to return, to self-determination, and to establishing the independent Palestinian state, which has become—thanks to the uprising and the sacrifices of our people—an actual possibility.

More on Arrest of Fatah Member, Others in Egypt

JN1205202290 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 11 May 90 p 1

["Exclusive"]

[Text] Egyptian security forces recently arrested the famous Palestinian commando leader Abu-'Ali Shahin [Ibrahim Shahin] and 11 of his companions in the Canada refugee camp, which lies on the Egyptian border with occupied Palestine. The camp was divided in two after the Israeli withdrawal that followed the Camp David agreements. The detainees were charged with possessing and stockpiling weapons in the camp.

Abu-'Ali Shahin is a member of the revolutionary council of the Fatah Movement, having been elected to the post with an overwhelming majority during Fatah's congress last summer in Tunis. He spent over 15 years in occupation jails after being on the wanted list for a long time. He was released in a prisoner exchange a few years ago. He was considered the leader of militants in occupation jails and was their spokesman under all circumstances and on all occasions.

The PLO has remained silent over his detention in an attempt to handle the situation calmly. Its efforts have had no result so far, however.

Iran Takes Measures To Support Palestinian Cause

JN1305184990 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] The Iranian Majles made a number of important decisions to support the Palestinian revolution during a session held the day before yesterday. [Iranian President] Hashemi-Rafsanjani presented a draft resolution on this topic, which the Majles approved. The resolution provides for supporting the Palestinian revolution in the following ways:

—A special fund to support the Palestinian revolution shall be set up.

—The Iranian Bonyad-e Shahid [martyrs' foundation] shall allocate a special budget to support the Palestinian martyrs' foundation.

—Places shall be allocated to Palestinian students in all Iranian universities and academic institutions.

—All Iranian information media shall give priority to the Palestinian cause. The Palestinian cause, therefore, shall be the media's principal concern.

—The Palestine question shall be the basis of Iran's foreign policy.

—All international companies dealing with the Zionist enemy shall be boycotted.

U.S.-Palestinian Meeting Reported in Tunis

LD1605011790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Another Palestinian-U.S. meeting took place in Tunis today and it was attended by Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO representative in Tunis, and the U.S. charge d'affaires. The meeting dealt with the developments pertaining to the peace process in the Middle East and relations between the PLO and the United States.

Executive Committee Member on U.S. Dialogue

JN1305090190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 May 90 p 15

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Excerpts] Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO Executive Committee member and representative in Jordan, has disclosed current Palestinian-Jordanian contacts and consultations seeking to form a joint committee on Jerusalem affairs, to follow up developments in the holy city in light of the fierce Jewish onslaught and attempts to Judaize the Islamic and Christian features in the city.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, Brigadier General al-Yahya explained that following the Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship made large strides forward and moved from the stage of building confidence to the stage of coordination and then to cooperation and joint venture.

Al-Yahya, who is an expert on Palestinian-Jordanian relations, added: Many joint Palestinian-Jordanian committees have been established recently. These cover the political, economic, educational, and agricultural areas. The Jordanian-Palestinian committee to support steadfastness was also revitalized and expanded to encompass cooperation and coordination on means to support the intifadah. Therefore, we can say that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is in the best of shape, and advancing on the correct path. [passage omitted]

Asked about the U.S. stance toward the Palestine question and the Arab nation and his view of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, al-Yahya said: The U.S. stance toward the Palestine question and toward the Palestinian people, their rights and land, is a satellite Zionist stance, in the full sense of the word. I will not say it is a biased position because bias means comparison and then preference based on reason. The U.S. stance, however, is far remote from reason and logic. It is shaped by a dependent Zionist group comprising members of the House and Senate, which has its ties with the U.S. Administration. Dependency on the so-called Zionist lobby, is only in the interests of certain high level U.S. circles. I believe the U.S. stance cannot be altered and U.S. policy cannot be brought back to its senses. This can only take place by circumvention and shock tactics through strong facts produced by Arab action and its reaction. Circumvention can be attained through quick, clear, concentrated, and united Arab political action. As for the shock needed, it can be generated by the force of facts, stands, and conceptions expressed by such a policy.

As for the so-called U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, it is merely a narrow channel of communication to exchange viewpoints and information. It has not yet reached the level of dialogue. Also it does not mean U.S. recognition of the PLO, although this should have been the case. Therefore, we consider this dialogue a precarious communication link between us and the United States. [passage omitted]

Algeria

President Receives Envoy, Summit Invitation

JN1405173090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Algiers, 14 May (INA)—Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today received a written message from President Saddam Husayn, which included an invitation from his excellency to his brother the Algerian president to attend the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad.

The message was delivered while the Algerian president received 'Abdallah Fadil, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and minister of awqaf and religious affairs.

'Abdallah Fadil conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings to President Chadli Bendjedid and the fraternal Algerian people. President Bendjedid asked him to convey greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his best wishes for the Iraqi people's continued progress and success.

President Bendjedid confirmed Algeria's participation in the extraordinary Arab summit, and stressed the importance of convening it at a time when the Arab nation is facing grave challenges. He praised Iraqi-Algerian relations and their progress to the benefit of the two fraternal countries and the Arab nation.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy arrived in Algeria earlier today from Tunis in the context of a tour that will also take him to Morocco.

Egypt

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid Cited on Regional Issues

PM1605080690 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 11 May 90 pp 28-29

[Unattributed interview with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid given in Riyadh and Cairo; dates not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-HAWADITH] The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have both passed resolutions, within days of one another, declaring Jerusalem Israel's capital. How does Egypt view these two resolutions and their effect on the Middle East peace process?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egypt condemns any attempt to change the legal status of occupied Jerusalem and its declaration as Israel's capital. Jerusalem is an integral part of the West Bank, and the Palestinians have legitimate and historical rights in it. Any unilateral attempt to change the legal status of East Jerusalem would be contrary to the simplest rules of international law and a clear violation of all UN resolutions on the Middle East, especially the Security Council resolutions which defined the basis and principles of a peace settlement as approved by the international community. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] The emigration of Soviet Jews is continuing. In your view, does this complicate the peace process, increase Israel's intransigence, and result in more settlements?

['Abd-al-Majid] Of course. Egypt has already stated its position on this serious matter. It is against the emigration of Soviet Jews to the occupied territory because it jeopardizes the Palestinian people's legitimate rights under the UN Security Council resolutions and international law. Immigration to the occupied territory constitutes a defiance of international law and legitimacy. Egypt is watching with great concern and condemnation the measures whereby some circles in Israel are trying to boost and reactivate Israeli settlements in the occupied territory.

These measures complicate any effort to promote a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question. Without a doubt, the international community is today, more than ever, called upon to reaffirm its rejection of the settlement operations and the illegitimacy of these operations. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] There is a media campaign in the West against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. What, in your view, are the dimensions of that campaign and what is Egypt's position on it?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egypt reaffirms its full support for Iraq and President Saddam Husayn against the arbitrary and unjust campaign to which Iraq has been subjected since 1981, when Israel attacked Iraq's nonmilitary nuclear reactor. The Western press which launched the campaign has misinterpreted the Iraqi president's statements.

There can be no doubt that Iraq, like all other states, is entitled to self-defense. I ask again: Was the Iraqi president supposed to wait until Israel strikes to destroy Iraq's industrial installations? Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has officially emphasized that he intends to hit Iraq.

[AL-HAWADITH] It has been reported that President Mubarak is expected to visit Damascus. How would you describe Egyptian-Syrian relations at present?

['Abd-al-Majid] Egyptian-Syrian relations are good and growing. There is Egyptian-Syrian understanding on several issues, particularly after President Mubarak's meeting with his brother President al-Asad in Tobruk. Generally speaking, relations are back to normal and are now diversified. Egypt is interested in and working for Arab unity of ranks. We hope to achieve positive results. We also welcome former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's announcement that Syria is ready to join the peace process. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] We still hear reports of infighting, shelling, and destruction in East Beirut. What, in Egypt's view, is the way out of the Lebanese crisis?

['Abd-al-Majid] The escalation of violence in Beirut has come as a severe shock to the world public at regional and international levels. It has dashed the repeatedly

expressed hopes of a solution to the deteriorating situation in Beirut resulting in the death of hundreds of innocent people.

I call on the world public to show solidarity in urging the warring parties to immediately cease all acts of violence and abide by the provisions of the al-Ta'if agreement, which constitutes a sound basis for a settlement of the Lebanese question through dialogue and negotiation, and I stress the need to support the legitimate Lebanese Government under President Ilyas al-Hirawi and to give it a chance to do its duty in the service of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[AL-HAWADITH] It has been reported that Ethiopia intends to build dams on the Nile. Do you expect that to happen?

[Abd-al-Majid] We have received assurances from the Ethiopian Government, which is a friendly government, that it will not initiate any projects at the source of the Nile and that there would be prior consultation on any such projects between Ethiopia, which is a Nile source state, and Egypt and Sudan, which are the Nile mouth states. Israel has nothing to do with this matter. We trust that the Ethiopian side understands this important and vital issue. [passage omitted]

People's Assembly Leader on U.S. Relations

LD1305162390 Kuwait KUNA in English 1053 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 13 (KUNA)—Chairman of the foreign relations committee in the Egyptian People's Assembly Dr. Muhammad Abdallah Sunday [13 May] called on Arab states to strengthen their relations with members of the U.S. Congress directly as it is the most effective way to deal with the United States.

In an interview with KUNA Abdallah affirmed importance of taking a unified Arab stance based on supporting the "uprising", as well as intensive activities in the United States and the international arena in order to stop Israel from achieving its extreme goals.

He added that the current split in Israel over how to solve the Palestinian issue is not an act but signifies a radical change in Israel as a result of the uprising and the Arab peace initiatives.

Abdallah, who is just back from the U.S. where he met with a number of congressmen as well as foreign office officials, has discussed the Senate's recent resolution considering "Jerusalem" the capital of Israel.

The Senate step was a result of pressure by the Zionist lobby and in reply to President Bush Administration's policy rejecting settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. [as received]

Abdallah warned against attacking the U.S. policy without knowing who has taken such decision and under which circumstances.

He indicated that Israel has embarassed the U.S., especially when it announced its rejection of Baker's plan.

Asked on President Mubarak's optimism over peace in the Middle East despite the Israeli premier's hardline stances, Dr. Abdallah said President Mubarak knows how to serve Arab interests in the light of the new developments.

Electricity Minister Comments on Danish Grant

NC1505184890 Cairo MENA in English 1738 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 15 (MENA)—The Danish Government has agreed to extend a grant worth 4.5 million dollars to Egypt for wind power projects in the country. Electricity Minister Mahir Abazah said the grant will be allocated for setting up the first specialised center for studies and development of wind power equipment. The center will arrange technical seminars for workers in the field. The grant will also be alloted for financing the local manufacture of wind turbines. The agreement was signed here today between the Egyptian and Danish Governments.

Trade Union Federation—No Ties With Histadrut

NC1405150890 Cairo MENA in English 1443 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Cairo, May 14 (MENA)—The Egyptian Trade Union Federation [ETUF] remains committed to its stance not to normalize relations with the Histadrut, its Israeli counterpart.

An ETUF statement referred today to a resolution issued by the federation's general assembly in 1979 on its reluctance to normalize relations with the Histadrut. Egyptian labour organizations at all levels will not establish any relationship, conduct any contacts, nor send a delegation to Israel out of abidance by their national stance and their Arab labour responsibilities towards the Palestinian question, the statement said. The Histadrut has not acknowledged the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, nor did it take any positive measure for furthering the peace process or objecting the violation of the rights of the Arab workers in the occupied Arab territories, according to the ETUF statement. The Histadrut did not as well condemn the inhuman acts which have been committed against those workers and which conflict with international conventions and codes on human rights.

The two persons who wrongly claimed that they were delegated to Tel Aviv by the Egyptian trade unions will be referred to ETUF's disciplinary committee for investigations, the federation's statement further read. A foreign news agency had alleged that an Egyptian trade union delegation visited Tel Aviv and met with Histadrut officials. The MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY learnt that this delegation involved two employees working with the Ministry of Agriculture and that they

were in Israel for an assignment that has nothing to do with trade unionist activity.

Paper Urges 'Unified Strategy' at Arab Summit

JN1505175790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Role of the Summit"]

[Text] Current Arab contacts to convene the awaited summit reflect a great desire that this anticipated meeting be a new landmark for the development of Arab action to confront impending dangers.

The current need for a summit presents itself from the start as an entirely natural occurence—in other words, this summit is urgently needed because of the new circumstances. It should not take place because of an individual request or call in which more than one country participates. We should also not dedicate the summit to one or more issues, regardless of their enormity or importance. The reasons for convening this summit relate to outside factors which have now in their sum total begun to take on the form of a plainly targeted operation against the entire Arab homeland—land, people, and resources. They transcend a defined state of affairs and incidental events. They also aim to threaten this homeland's present and future to a limitless extent.

The factors that have recently converged on the Arab nation reveal the presence of a clear strategy at the opposite side—Israel—a strategy whose implementation has actually begun to realize the second stage of the great Zionist dream. It also reveals the possibilities for a greater strategy on the level of greater forces to contain the Arab, and perhaps even the Islamic world and demolish it from within through numerous ready-made projects, some of which have already begun; to storm it, fragment it, destroy its dream of development and progress, and stamp it with subservience for the coming generations.

This time, the Arab summit is required to set a united strategy to confront direct and subtle dangers to the Arab world. There can be no other way out under these indisputably pressing circumstances; otherwise, for the present, the Arab world's chances of retrieving its rights will be lost; and in the future, possibly even its ability to exist with any kind of influence.

In the face of this single option, there seems to be an initial need for two things: The first is to prepare well for this summit to accommodate all Arab countries, regardless of their persisting differences, or at least to make a commitment beforehand to overcome these differences so as not to affect the chances of agreement during the convention, as well as in a manner guaranteeing a followup of the resulting resolutions with the same amount of unity, coordination, and harmony. In fact, if some of these differences, especially between Syria and Iraq, which need—as has been said—time to heal, then the higher strategic stand dictates—on a pan-Arab level—rapid action, planning, implementation, and exploitation of time.

Unified strategy is, of course, a great action, because it deals with exploiting the Arab homeland's resources to systematically confront the new developments and achieve the noblest levels of pan-Arab security in which the administration of a struggle on all levels and fronts has been organized.

Commentary Discusses Relations With Superpowers

NC1505183390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 May 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Cairo, Moscow, and Issues of Peace and Development"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The imbalance in Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union must be redressed because Egypt's national interests are not served by an inclination toward one superpower. At the same time, Egypt's dealings with either superpower—the United States or the Soviet Union—does not mean an consequent automatic deterioration in its ties with the other.

Undoubtedly, current Soviet policy under President Gorbachev converges in many points with the policy of Egypt, which seeks to broaden the scope of its relations with all countries without exception. The shared goal is to revive cooperation and to promote joint interests as far as possible. We must remember that joint interests cannot be promoted without positive cooperation. We also remember that the defense of these interests by armed force or the imposition of faits accomplis are obsolete methods no longer supported even by the champions of those interests themselves.

Therefore, calls have been made to destroy weapons of mass destruction, reduce the superpowers' armed forces, and raise the slogan of peace.

In light of all these circumstances and changes, President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union and the Soviet leaders' warm welcome of the Egyptian president clearly indicate that a new phase of cooperation in all fields to promote joint interests is opening between big and small countries. [passage omitted]

Comment on Israel's 'Harassment' of Jordanian Yacht

JN1405084390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "The Policy of Harassment"]

[Text] The official Jordanian statement on the firing at King Husayn's yacht by an Israeli boat has removed all doubt, cast intentionally or unintentionally, on whether or not the incident really took place. There had been uncertain reports on the incident before it was initially confirmed by the United States and later conclusively confirmed by the Jordanian statement.

By all standards, the incident is dramatic because the king was on board the yacht at the time. What is more dramatic, however, is that the incident was not the first of its kind, which means that the yacht is "monitored" from the Israeli side and that its harassment, whenever possible, is a premeditated Israeli act. This is extremely serious for two reasons. First, it gives a clear idea of the extent of Israel's harassment of Jordan—especially that the incident involved Jordan's highest symbol. Second, the harassment, coming as it does at this stage, highlights an official Israeli trend of harassing the Arabs from all sides and at all levels.

Israel's harassment of Palestinians in the occupied territories and of Lebanese and Palestinians in southern Lebanon is not merely a form of daily, intermittent provocation; indeed, it is almost a declared war. And Israel's harassment of Iraq is virtually reaching the extent of direct aggression—something which is now expected. Its harassment of Syria is comparatively less apparent, but it does exist, especially as concerns vital Syrian interests. Its harassment of Jordan is of a special nature because it entails almost all possible manifestations, including, for example, the expulsion of Palestinians in the occupied territories over the river to Jordan on the grounds that Jordan is the alternative Palestinian homeland. Other manifestations of this Israeli harassment of Jordan are the explicit threats by the highest-level military leaders that Israel will attack all Jordan's vital targets if, at any time, it shows leniency leading to the infiltration of any Palestinian citizen wishing to return to the West Bank, let alone a Jordanian soldier. The harassment also includes the firing at the king's yacht while he is on board. All these are signals and messages to Jordanians and others that Jordan—its present, future, land, people, and leaders—is within range of the Israeli bomb, whether conventional or atomic.

Israel's policy of harassment is actually threatening the Arab nation in its entirety. This policy already existed, but it recently sharpened for two reasons: to raise the state of preparedness with a view to carrying out the new settlement operation unnoticed; and as an act of terrorization and intimidation as an introduction to a war to gain additional lands and subjugate by force those rejecting this Israeli policy.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Phones Malagasy President Ratsiraka

LD1405205690 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution held a telephone conversation with the president of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka. President Ratsiraka reassured the brother leader about the situation in Madagascar, and affirmed to him the normalcy of security in the country.

Liaison Secretary Meets Chad Minister Ibn-Oumar

LD1505200390 Tripoli JANA in English 1653 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 15 May Jamahiriyah News Agency—A meeting was held today between the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau and Acheik Ibn-Oumar, the foreign minister of Chad, within the framework of the joint committee meetings between the two countries according to the framework agreement signed between them.

Egyptian Minister for Scientific Research Arrives

LD1305201190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA)—Dr. 'Adil 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Izz, Egyptian minister of state for scientific research, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this afternoon for a visit to the great Jamahiriyah. In a statement to JANA, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Izz said he is happy to visit the great Jamahiriyah, stressing that the visit will enable executive progams for scientific research to be established between the great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Iranian Deputy Minister Arrives for Meeting

LD1405163390 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, May 14 IRNA—[Iranian] Deputy Minister of Construction Jihad Mohammad Javad Iravani arrived here Sunday at the head of a delegation to attend the 16th meeting of economic and planning ministers of African states.

Representatives of international organizations including those affiliated to the United Nations are also present at the meeting to be inaugurated Monday.

Mauritania

Renewed Fighting with Senegal Said Likely

PM1605084690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 May 90 pp 1-2

[Abdallah Ould Mohamedi: "Fears of Escalation Between Senegal and Mauritania"]

[Text] Nouakchott, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—It seems that a bloody conflict is approaching in the Mauritanian-Senegalese border area. Following the announcement by the so-called the Front for the Liberation of Africans in Mauritania, known as FLAM, about the establishment of an armed group repeesenting its military wing, the Front issued its first statement in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, citing its launching of a large-scale offensive against Mauritanian Army fortifications near the border town of Ka'edi.

The statement said that the Mauritanian Army lost 50 soldiers in the battle. The commander of the front's military wing and some of his comrades were killed in the battle. But informed sources in Nouakchott have denied that the Mauritanian Army could have lost that number. The sources said that only seven soldiers were killed, whereas the attackers' losses were substantial, especially in view of the confirmed killing of the Mauritanian military wing's commander—a former Mauritanian Army officer holding the rank of captain who fled to Senegal following the failure of the coup attempt organized by some black officers three years ago with the aim of toppling President Ould Taya's regime.

Regardless of how fierce the battle is, it points to a resumption the conflict in the area, since the Mauritanian authorities hinted at the possibility of allowing Mauritanians evacuated from Senegal to use arms to recover the possessions seized by armed groups which cross the river separating the two countries and to seize their possessions under the force of arms—which could prompt them to embark on similar operations inside Senegalese territory.

Some observers believe that serious developments are approaching in the area following the failure of successive mediations. Unless influential mediation capable of exerting pressure on both sides is carried out, an armed guerrilla war would remain the suitable alternative to outright warfare, since both sides, at least for the present, do not want to involve their regular armies in an open military confrontation.

Reinforcements on Border Reported

PM1605112590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 May 90 p 1

[Abdallah Ould Mohamedi dispatch: "Mauritania Reinforces Border Positions After Attacks From Senegalese Territory"]

[Text] Nouakchott—The Mauritanian Army has begun reinforcing its positions in the Mauritanian-Senegalese border area after repeated attacks by armed groups from Senegal.

Information received by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from informed sources indicates that the latest such operation occurred two days ago 20 km north of the river near the Mauritanian border town of Boki when an armed group opened fire on Mauritanian camps. The residents tried to return the attackers' fire with their own individual weapons but were faced with automatic fire from machine guns. According to the same sources, all six members of a Mauritanian family were killed and others were wounded. A medical source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that some of the wounded were taken to the national hospital in Nouakchott. The condition of some of them is causing concern.

This attack comes a week after the first attack with which the Front for the Liberation of Africans in Mauritania, known as FLAM, began its military operations. The front's military commander was killed in that attack.

According to travelers from that area, the people there, who are mostly farmers, are terrified.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Invitation to Baghdad Summit

LD1405203990 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1019 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 May (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir has received a letter from the Iraqi president, Saddam Husayn, inviting him to participate in the Arab summit in Baghdad on 28 May. It was reported that Lt. Gen. 'Umar received the letter here yesterday when he met the Iraqi minister of state and President Saddam's personal envoy, Arshad al-Zubayri. The Iraqi minister of state said developments in the Arab arena [word indistinct] between the two countries were reviewed during the meeting.

It is worth mentioning that Sudan was one of the first states to agree to the convening of the Arab summit, which will discuss threats to Arab security.

Comments on Joint Defense, Integration

NC1305152590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1402 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 May (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Command Council, has stressed that relations between Egypt and Sudan are in the best shape and that bilateral coordination continues in various areas. At a meeting with Arab journalists in Khartoum today, he said that Egypt's support has facilitated many things for Sudan and that the Egyptians have contributed toward an improvement in Sudan's ties with the African countries. He noted that relations between the two countries will grow further in the future. He called for activating the joint defense agreement and the integration agreement between Egypt and Sudan.

Al-Bashir asserted that the Israeli presence in the Horn of Africa poses a threat to all the Red Sea littoral countries, particularly the Arab and Gulf countries. He said that this presence is aimed at striking at the depth of the Arab world and threatening navigation in the Red Sea. He stated that Sudan is seeking to improve relations with the West European countries in general. He noted that Sudan has reached an advanced stage in improving ties with the United States.

Minister on Coup Attempt, Unity With Libya

PM1305203990 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 May 90 p 30

[Interview with [Brigadier General] Ibrahim Nayil Adam, youth and sports minister and member of the

National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Baghdad—date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Jawhari] Let us now move to the recent abortive coup attempt. I have learned that the executed coup leaders were Ba'thists. How then will it be possible to coordinate with Iraq in sports and youth areas?

[Adam] Who said they were Ba'thists?

[Al-Jawhari] Sudanese Ba'thists.

[Adam] Which Ba'thists? Has the Sudanese Government said they were Ba'thists? Be specific.

[Al-Jawhari] The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party of Sudan says so.

[Adam] And where is this party?

[Al-Jawhari] In Sudan.

[Adam] I would have preferred you to rely on Sudanese Government sources—for instance, the news conference held by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir last Sunday (29 April) when he said that the coup leaders had coordinated with John Garang. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir did not attribute any specific affiliation to these people.

[Al-Jawhari] What was their affiliation, then?

[Adam] We do not know. They led a coup attempt and were not establishment people.

[Al-Jawhari] But you are in charge of security in the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

[Adam] That's right.

[Al-Jawhari] How is it then that you do not know their affiliation?

[Adam] I do not know; they wanted to seize power—a handful who wanted to seize power. Did we have a political character when we moved [against the former regime]? We had none.

[Al-Jawhari] Not even now?

[Adam] Not even now.

[Al-Jawhari] Major General 'Uthman Balul and Colonel Muhammad Ahmad Qasim were said to have been arrested three days before the attempted coup, but, were nevertheless executed.

[Adam] That's because they were involved in the plot.

[Al-Jawhari] But they were not involved in the implementation.

[Adam] The two men were the motive force; they were apprehended before the failed coup. They were the masterminds.

[Al-Jawhari] But, reportedly, the coup leaders did not fire a single shot during the attempt.

[Adam] They need not have done so to be properly called coup leaders. What are we to make of someone who is not in the Army wearing a military uniform, riding a tank, and then mounting an attempt to seize power? In the eyes of Armed Forces law, he is a rebel. It is the case of someone outside the Army wearing a militry uniform, mounting a tank, and then making a bid to control the government. Do you want me to wait until he starts shooting?

[Al-Jawhari] The new information minister, Muhammad Khawjali Salihin, said the coup leaders had been promised a fair trial before they agreed to give themselves up. Do you call what happened a fair trial?

[Adam] It was fair by Armed Forces standards.

[Al-Jawhari] So quick and without the benefit of defense?

[Adam] Military trials are such that there is no need for attorneys to plead the defendants' case. The defendants confessed and everyone saw what was happening. They had a "summary" trial. Everyone knew what went on, there was no room for denial, and they confessed. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Although no RCC members resigned on account of the executions, there was a protest memo from Army officers.

[Adam] There was no such memo, my dear. Where did you receive your information?

[Al-Jawhari] The news was carried by many radio stations, including Radio Monte Carlo.

[Adam] You must know what kind of stations Monte Carlo, the Voice of America, and the BBC are. They are Zionist stations, and what do you expect to hear from such stations but lies? [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] Let's now move back to southern Sudan. How are things down there?

[Adam] Stable and settled.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the latest on political contacts with Garang?

[Adam] Continuing.

[Al-Jawhari] Why has the third meeting set for Nairobi or Cairo not been convened yet?

[Adam] It is up to them.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the basis of the current contacts?

[Adam] There are contacts to fix the venue and date, either in Egypt or Kenya. As you know, President Moi, Egypt, and the United States have launched peace initiatives. We are seeking peace and dialogue despite what has happened. We are trying to be patient and we extend our hand in peace.

[Al-Jawhari] The Libyan Government has denied any connection with the current fighting between Chadian

forces and the Islamic Legion in Sudan. Does this mean that Sudan is responsible for this fighting?

[Adam] Fighting is raging between the Chadian opposition and the Chadian Army and Sudan has nothing to do with it.

[Al-Jawhari] But is the fighting not taking place inside Sudan?

[Adam] It is taking place on the Sudanese border and Sudan has nothing to do with it. It is a war between the Chadian opposition and the Chadian Government. You know that there are about 13 tribes in the border areas between Sudan and Chad. Some of these tribes are in Sudan and others are in Chad.

[Al-Jawhari] What is the extent of opposition inside the RCC to unity with Libya?

[Adam] The extent of opposition inside the RCC? Who said there was any opposition?

[Al-Jawhari] We have heard that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir surprised the RCC with the unity agreement with Libya.

[Adam] Surprised it?

[Al-Jawhari] And that the RCC was not informed in advance of the agreement.

[Adam] If the RCC had been surprised, the agreement would have been rejected on the first day, but there was no surprise.

[Al-Jawhari] What measures have been taken to achieve unity with Libya?

[Adam] There is an integration secretariat and a headquarters for it. In addition, the two sides are holding consultations.

[Al-Jawhari] What will the form of leadership in the unity state be? Will there be one president or a presidential council? Will the system be parliamentary or not?

[Adam] Consultations are under way, and we do not have a parliament in Sudan.

[Al-Jawhari] Nor do the Libyans have a parliament. They have a General People's Congress.

[Adam] They have conferences and we have popular committees.

[Al-Jawhari] When will this unity take place?

[Adam] We will leave that to circumstances. It usually begins with some steps and then is completed. So far, we have taken the first step.

[Al-Jawhari] The agreement stipulates that unity should be achieved within four years. Will it take place within that period?

[Adam] That is up to circumstances and to the two countries. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] During my previous meeting with you, in Khartoum, I asked you about the U.S. threat to cut off all aid to Sudan. The United States has now cut off all aid to Sudan because of your refusal to return to democracy. Do you plan to return to democracy?

[Adam] We told the United States that it is not wheat that keeps us alive. We rejected the U.S. wheat. What happened to us? Have we starved? No we have not starved and we are still standing on our feet. The United States should know that decisions in Sudan are made by the Sudanese themselves. We said this before we knew what wheat was. We ate maize when we were young. We thought wheat was sweet. We did not know what wheat was. Therefore, Sudan can return to maize, can grow wheat too, and can export wheat to the United States itself. The United States should know this well.

[Al-Jawhari] It seems that Arab countries too have quietly suspended their aid. Now there is no Arab aid.

[Adam] Which Arab countries have suspended aid to us?

[Al-Jawhari] We no longer hear about aid as we used to during the first days of the 30 June movement, when airlifts were organized to transport various forms of assistance.

[Adam] Have you asked Iraq if it has suspended its aid to Sudan? Not hearing about aid does not mean it has been suspended.

[Al-Jawhari] Observers have the right to guess and ask.

[Adam] This does not mean that aid does not go to Sudan.

[Al-Jawhari] Which countries continue to extend aid to Sudan?

[Adam] Most Arab countries.

[Al-Jawhari] Does aid include weapons?

[Adam] I cannot confirm that to you. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Summit Message to Ben Ali

JN1305185690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 May 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 13 May (INA)—'Abdallah Fadil, minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs and President Saddam's personal envoy, conveyed a message this evening from President Saddam Husayn to his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The message was an invitation to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference to be held in Baghdad.

During the meeting, President Zine El Abidine stressed the importance of holding the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to confront the serious challenges facing the Arab nation. He also praised the distinguished Iraqi-Tunisian relations and ways to promote them in the interest of the two countries and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Saddam Receives 'Abd-al-Majid, Mubarak Message

JN0905162190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 May (INA)—His excellency President Saddam Husayn received this morning 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Usamah al-Baz conveyed an oral message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the preparations under way for an exraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad. These preparations are part of continuous consultations between the leaderships in the two fraternal countries to secure everything necessary to make the summit succeed in responding properly to the serious threats to pan-Arab security.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Egyptian ambassador in Baghdad.

INA Carries 'Aziz Remarks on Iranian Response

JN1605103290 Baghdad INA in English 1005 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, May 16, INA—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraq's [deputy] prime minister and foreign minister returned home on Tuesday [15 May], concluding his several-day visit to Italy.

While in Rome, Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Tariq 'Aziz described his one-and-a-half hour talks with United Nations Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar on Monday as constructive. The meeting is part of a UN bid to resume the stalled Iraq-Iran peace talks.

In remarks during a press conference following the meeting Mr. 'Aziz said the UN chief has a very important role to play.

"He played a very important role in the past and he has done his best to facilitate the talks but you know he can make more success when the two parties involved try to be closer," Mr. 'Aziz added.

Referring to a new Iraqi initiative to break the Gulf war peace talks deadlock, Mr. 'Aziz told reporters he had informed Perez de Cuellar during the meeting of the exchange of letters between Iraqi and Iranian governments.

Iraq has proposed, in a letter to the Iranian government, face to face talks between the leaders of the two countries.

"The first initiative was made on the side of Baghdad and then there was an answer from Tehran. The exchange of letters was official. We consider this as a positive development," Mr. 'Aziz said.

Mr. 'Aziz who refused to comment on the content of the Iranian letter said he was "assessing this step in a positive manner."

The Gulf war stopped in August 1988 but subsequent peace talks quickly stalled.

'Aziz said Iraq "would like to take all the necessary steps in order to establish a comprehensive and lasting peace between Iraq and Iran."

Asked what Iraq would do now that Iran had answered its letter, he said: "At this stage we consider this as a positive development to the situation which we would like to build upon in order to reach the understanding necessary to achieve peace."

The UN chief returned to New York on Tuesday after the talks in Rome with Mr. 'Aziz.

Few detail emerged of the talks but Perez de Cuellar told reporters the United Nations was ready to help resolve the stalemate that followed a 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war.

Met With De Michelis

JN1505191390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1756 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening after a visit to Italy which lasted several days.

During his visit, Tariq 'Aziz met with Italian Foreign Minister de Michelis and reviewed with him Iraq's initiatives to establish a permament and comprehensive peace with Iran. He also briefed de Michelis on current preparations under way for the extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad to discuss threats to pan-Arab security.

Oil Minister Notes Positive Meeting With Saudis

JN1505151790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 May (INA)—Oil Minister Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim and his delegation returned to Baghdad this evening after attending the fifth round of meetings of the Iraqi-Saudi joint committee for economic, trade, technical, and scientific cooperation which concluded its meetings in Riyadh today.

The oil minister told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the meetings yielded many positive results contributing to strengthening economic and trade relations between the two fraternal countries.

He added that trade exchange between the two sides will increase. The concept of equal deals will be introduced, as well as exempting new goods from taxes and encouraging Saudi investors to invest their capital in Iraq.

He said that during his visit, he met with his Saudi counterpart Mr. Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum

and mineral resources, to discuss the development of the situation in the world oil markets in light of the OPEC ministerial committee's extraordinary meeting held in Geneva recently.

The delegation accompanying the oil minister included representatives from the Ministries of Trade, Industry and Military Industrialization, Transport and Communications, and Planning.

Mauritanian Leader Receives Summit Invitation

JN1605153690 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpt] Muhammad Hamzah [al-Zubaydi], transport and communications minister and personal envoy of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, last night conveyed a written message to Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and Mauritanian president, from his excellency the president inviting him to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

INA has learned that the Mauritanian president expressed his thanks to his excellency President leader Saddam Husayn for this noble invitation, and informed the president's envoy that he will participate along with his brother Arab kings and presidents during the summit deliberations in consultation on Arab issues.

The president's envoy earlier arrived in Nouakchott from Tripoli after relaying a similar message to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

Envoy Conveys Summit Invitation to Djibouti

JN1605154290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Arshad al-Zibari, minister of state and personal envoy of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, last night conveyed a written message to Djibouti President Gouled Hassan inviting him to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Baghdad on 28 May.

INA has learned that the Djibouti president asked Arshad al-Zibari to relay his warm greetings to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by Djibouti Foreign Affairs Minister Bahdon Moumin and the Iraqi ambassador to Djibouti.

Comment on 'Strategic Parity' With Israel

JN1305082190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0602 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the next extraordinary Baghdad summit will define the extent of joint Arab awareness of the elements of strength available in the Arab homeland and in the Arab nation.

The paper adds, in a comment published today under the title "The Summit of Arab Changes": It is not a coincidence that it has been decided to hold the extraordinary Arab summit in the Iraqi capital in the climate of the new regional strategic parity. Deciding on this venue is clearly based on Iraq's recent announcement that it has the ability and determination to respond to any armed Zionist attack, since the repercussions of such an attack, in themselves, will be of a long-term and effective military nature, and will guarantee the rallying and massing of Arab potentials to support the just Iraqi response.

It says that just as there are important international changes surrounding the next Arab summit, so there are Arab changes, directly concerning the future of the Arab nation, which define the features of a new situation and level of Arab solidarity and joint pan-Arab action. Foremost of these changes is the Arab ability to move from defensive positions against foreign encroachments to positions of decisive response to these encroachments regardless of their source, and in particular if they stem from Zionist or American sources.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that this ability has achieved strategic parity between the Arabs, and the Zionist entity. The enemies of the Arab nation can no longer turn a blind eye to the possibility of a practical and real Arab response to any foreign aggression, not only in the military field, but in the economic and political fields too.

The paper says that outside the scope of Iraqi response to possible Zionist and imperialist armed aggression against Iraq, Iraq has clearly indicated its readiness to support any Arab country exposed to aggression which asks for Iraq's help.

It concludes by saying that the knowledge, power, and ability that the glorious Arab nation possesses guarantees defining the proper and true program that will undoubtedly lead to preserving the status of Arabs in history, and the emergence of a constructive role targetting peace and good-will. The general framework and details of such a program will be defined in the next Arab summit.

Guidelines of Likud Government Led By Shamir

TA1605094390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 May 90 pp A1, 4

[Text] These are the basic guidelines of the Likud government led by Shamir, as drafted by Minister Moshe Nisim with the assistance of Justice Minister Dan Meridor. The guidelines were formulated after talks with representatives of all the parties in the Likud bloc and based on the premise that they will have to be accepted by the Labor Party if it wants to join a unity government. The document containing the guidelines was distributed to the Likud's potential government partners yesterday.

1. The Main Objectives

The main objectives of the Israeli Government are security, peace, preventing war, immigrant absorption, social justice, and bringing different sectors of the population closer in a Jewish-democratic state that upholds full equality for all its citizens.

2. Foreign and Defense Policy

2.1 The government's policy for promoting the peace process in the region will be based on the peace plan of the previous government and on giving a positive response to the U.S. secretary of state's question.

2.2 Israel's foreign and defense policy will be geared to securing the independence of the state, increasing its security, and establishing peace with all its neighbors.

2.3 The government will endeavor to foster relations of friendship and reciprocal relations between Israel and any peace-seeking country. The government will endeavor to enhance the special relations of friendship between the United States and Israel.

2.4 The government will take action to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC and other countries which have not yet established diplomatic ties with Israel. The government will endeavor to improve Israel's relations and ties with the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and Third World countries.

2.5 The government will continue to regard Egypt as a prominent partner in the effort to establish peace in our region and will endeavor to promote understanding and friendship between the Israeli and Egyptian peoples.

2.6 The government will endeavor to maintain the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] strength, its deterrent power, and its ability to resist any military threat. The government will take firm action against any form of terror. The IDF and the security forces will continue to take firm action to prevent violence, to curb rioting and rebellion, and to restore peace while strictly observing the law and individual rights.

2.7 The government will abide by all of Israel's international commitments.

3. Jerusalem

United Jerusalem, the eternal capital of Israel, is one indivisible city under Israeli sovereignty, and no autonomy plan will apply to it.

Members of all faiths will always be assured free access to their holy sites and freedom of worship.

4. Immigrant Absorption

4.1 The government will take action to absorb immigrants arriving in Israel by creating the social, economic, and spiritual conditions to fulfill the main goal of the State of Israel, which is the gathering of the Jewish diaspora into their homeland.

4.2 The government will take action to speed up immigration from all countries and from all places of the Jewish people, to encourage immigration from affluent countries, to pursue the efforts to save persecuted Jews and bring them to a safe haven, and to fulfill their right to immigrate to Israel.

4.3 The government sees emigration from Israel, particularly by young Israelis, as a negative and damaging phenomenon and will take action to prevent it.

5. Social Affairs and Economy

5.1 The government will endeavor to develop the economy according to a comprehensive plan in order to strengthen and advance toward economic independence and to become a self-sufficient economy; it will raise investment in Israel and abroad, create jobs, and advance Israeli society.

5.2 The government will take action to rehabilitate disadvantaged neighborhoods and cultivate its inhabitants, and it will change its social priorities to this end.

5.3 The government regards the development towns as a pioneering Zionist enterprise and considers its chief national objective is seeing to their strengthening and constant development; it will uphold their privileged status and will endeavor to turn them into centers of immigrant absorption.

5.4 The government will enforce a policy of full and productive employment; keep a fair standard of living according to the country's economic capacity, advance the lower classes and reduce social gaps; increase work productivity and production; and foster a sense of responsibility toward the economy of employees and employers.

5.5 The government sees the advancement of the status of women as a social and economic goal and deems equal rights for both sexes as a fundamental democratic right. Women will get equal rights—particularly in terms of wages, taxation, and unemployment—and will be incorporated into the senior levels of government and administration.

6. Settlement

6.1 The government considers all forms of settlement an enterprise of vital value which should be strengthened and fortified. The government will adopt an agricultural and economic policy that will restore to the settlements the ability to tackle the special problems lying ahead of them.

6.2 The government will assume special responsibility for reinforcing and strengthening the settlements along the confrontation lines through appropriate arrangements.

6.3 The government will see to the safeguarding of the safety of the settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

7. Construction and Housing

7.1 The government will take steps to give priority to the construction of apartments. The government will see to securing accommodation to new immigrants and providing housing solutions to young couples; it will give priority and assist soldiers who complete their military service, taking into consideration their economic situation; housing solutions will be supplied to families living in crowded conditions.

7.2 Ways will be pursued to reassign land owned by the Israel Land Administration for building purposes in a bid to bring down the price of building land.

7.3 The government will encourage prefabricated housing and will help companies that undertake to erect prefabricated houses and rental apartments and will endeavor to shorten bureaucratic procedures concerning the issuing of building permits.

8. Education

8.1 The government regards education as the main factor shaping the image of Israel's future generation. The impartation of knowledge, moral norms, and human and national ideas will help shape a creative and just society.

8.2 The government considers investment in education an investment in the country's human capital, and it will endeavor to allocate suitable resources to assure education on all levels, from infancy through elementary and higher education.

8.3 The government will institute a long school day in all schools.

8.4 The government will endeavor to improve studying conditions and teaching levels in the Arab and Druze sectors in a bid to make their conditions equal to those of schools in the Jewish sector.

8.5 The government will uphold the equality of all schools of all educational affiliations on all levels. The government will see to bringing all forms of ultraorthodox education up to par.

8.6 The government will endeavor to advance and improve the status of teachers in Israel.

8.7 The government will endeavor to increase the enrollment capacity of universities and make sure that every student is able to study in them regardless of economic situation. Budget allocations for research in universities will be increased.

8.8 Education will be based on the eternal values of the Israeli people.

9. Religion and State

9.1 National unity and normal social life necessitate the fostering of mutual tolerance, bringing different sectors of the population closer, and allowing freedom of conscience and religious worship. The government will prevent any religious or antireligious coercion from any quarters whatsoever; it will safeguard public religious needs, will uphold the freedom of religious worship and conscience of non-Jewish congregations, and will assure religious education to all children whose parents so desire.

9.2 The government will maintain the status quo on religious affairs in Israel.

10. Arabs and Druze

10.1 The policy of the Israeli Government will be geared to fully incorporate Israel's Arabs and Druze in all spheres of life in the country, while respecting their religious and cultural uniqueness and upholding the equality of all its citizens.

10.2 Special efforts will be made to hire Arabs and Druze, particularly university graduates, to the civil service and public institutions in order to have them share state and public responsibility.

10.3 The government will immediately proceed to reschedule the debts of all Arab and Druze local authorities.

10.4 A special committee chaired by the prime minister will be set up at once to bring the status and budget of local authorities up to par and to solve the problem of buildings constructed without legal permits.

10.5 The government will proceed to approve the building programs of Arab and Druze locations.

10.6 A special committee will be set up to deal with affairs concerning the waqf [religious endowments].

10.7 The Druze community, which has tied its destiny to that of the Jewish people and the State of Israel, has enhanced these ties through compulsory military service in the IDF by members of the Druze and Circasian community. The government will endeavor to secure special housing and employment schemes for soldiers completing their military service.

10.8 The settlement of Bedouin in existing locations will continue, and these locations will be augmented by areas for agricultural, industrial, and touristic projects. Current land arrangements with the Bedouin in the Negev will remain in effect, and remuneration will be adjusted to reflect real cost.

11. The Government and the Citizen

11.1 The government will endeavor to secure the values of social justice, equal human freedoms, public responsibility, and honesty; it will foster relations of mutual respect between human beings and will fortify the foundations of democracy; it will secure full equal rights for all inhabitants regardless of religion, race, nationality, or sex.

11.2 The government will endeavor to eradicate crime and violence and heighten awareness about a state governed by law.

11.3 The government, together with all pertinent public institutions, including the Road Safety Administration, will work to prevent road accidents.

11.4 The government will take action to expand the self-reliance of local authorities and reduce their dependence on the central government.

11.5 The government will implement the recommendations of the Kubersky report [on administration and government reforms].

11.6 In view of the worrisome phenomena and serious irregularities in the performance of the Israeli government regime, the government will take action to fortify the democratic regime, to revise the government system in Israel, to strengthen the government's performance, and to enhance relations between electors and elected.

MA'ARIV 'Text'

TA1605054390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 16 May 90 p A15

[Report by Menahem Rahat: "Full Text of the Government's Basic Guidelines"; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Following are the basic guidelines of the government's policy drafted by the Likud:

—Recognizing the shared fate and common struggle for the Jewish people's existence in Greater Israel, the government will place immigration and absorption at the top of its missions.

—The government will take action to speed up immigration from all countries and to save persecuted Jews.

—The Jewish people's eternal right to Greater Israel is incontestable and is part of its right to security and peace.

—The main political objectives will be: Preventing war, enhancing security, and promoting peace. To that end, the government will take the following actions:

—Foreign and defense policy will be geared to securing the independence of the state, increasing its security, and maintaining peace with all its neighbors.

—The government will endeavor to increase the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] strength, its deterrent power, and its ability to resist any military threat, and will take firm action against any type of terror. The IDF and other security forces will continue to act firmly and diligently to ensure peace to all inhabitants, and to quell riots and violence.

—The government will continue to place striving for peace at the top of its concerns and will spare no effort to promote peace.

—The government will continue to pursue the peace process according to the framework for peace in the Middle East decided upon at Camp David and to promote all parts of its peace initiative from 14 May 1989.

—Israel will encourage representatives of the Arabs of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to take part in the peace process.

—Israel will oppose the establishment of an additional Palestinian state in the Gaza District and in the area between Israel and Jordan.

—Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.

—Israel will call on Jordan to open peace negotiations.

—The government will take action to advance and enhance bilateral relations with Egypt according to the peace treaty. The government will call on Egypt to fulfill its part in the peace treaty with Israel.

—The government will endeavor to foster friendly relations and reciprocal relations between Israel and any peace-seeking country; it will endeavor to enhance the relations of friendship and understanding between the United States and Israel and will take action to resume diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and to establish diplomatic relations with the PRC and other countries.

—United Jerusalem, Israel's eternal capital, is one indivisible city under Israeli sovereignty; members of all faiths will continue to be assured free access to their holy sites and freedom of worship. Jerusalem will not be included in the framework of the autonomy that will be granted to the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza; and its Arab inhabitants will not participate in the elections to choose the representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District.

—Settlement in all parts of Greater Israel is a right and an inseparable part of national security. The government will take action to strengthen, expand, and develop settlements. The government will continue to abide by the rule that Jewish settlement should not cause the ouster of anybody from his land, village, or town."

—Economic and social affairs: Reducing public consumption expenditures; expanding the rehabilitation of disadvantaged neighborhoods; effecting a reform in the civil service and local authorities; providing appropriate housing for young couples, immigrants, and large families; struggling to prevent emigration; bringing conditions in the Arab and Druze sectors up to par; hiring minorities

for the civil service and public institutions; fighting road accidents; eradicating crime.

—Religion and state: "National unity and normal social life necessitate the fostering of mutual tolerance, bringing different sectors of the population closer, and allowing freedom of conscience and religious worship. The government will prevent any religious or antireligious coercion, will safeguard public religious needs, will uphold the freedom of religious worship and conscience of non-Jewish congregations and supply their religious needs, and will assure religious education to all children whose parents so desire; the status quo on religious affairs will be upheld."

—Education: Will be based on the eternal values of the Israeli people, love of Israel and the motherland; the education system will foster respect for Israel's heritage and will strengthen relations between Israel and the Diaspora."

The last clause in the guidelines asserts that "the government will abide by all of Israel's international commitments."

Last night, the religious parties expressed their appreciation with regard to the clauses dealing with the relations between religion and state.

[An analysis of the guidelines by the same correspondent on pages A1 and A2 in MA'ARIV adds: "Referring to reforms in the electoral and government systems, the guidelines state that 'this possibility will be looked into.'"]

'Merely a Draft'

TA1605112490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tomorrow Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will ask the president for an extension to try and form a government to be headed by him.

Mr. Shamir has said that the proposed guidelines for the next government are merely a draft. Corrections of it are possible, and it is to be considered policy principles. According to him, Baker's initiative is not mentioned in the guidelines because the government resolutions do not deal with such a document, and as long as new decisions are not made, the existing resolutions are binding. This was reported by our correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Ministers Discuss NRP Proposal, Peres Comments

TA0905172690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpts] The Alignment ministers forum convened today to discuss the NRP [National Religious Party] proposal to form a national unity government.

After the meeting, Shim'on Peres stated that the Labor Party Bureau's resolution is the one that binds the party and that it is still too soon to interpret the decision made today by the former Alignment ministers as a green light to a unity government.

[Begin Peres recording] There is the bureau resolution which says that our participation in a national unity government is contingent on giving Baker an affirmative reply. At this moment, nothing has happened to change this resolution. As far as I know, the bureau's resolutions were unanimous; everyone concurred in endorsing them. If other suggestions are proffered, they will be discussed, but so far, there have been no other crystallized suggestions. There is the NRP document about which we posed questions and proposed amendments. No other resolution exists. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The NRP has given the Alignment until Sunday [13 May] to withdraw its demand for parity in the Cabinet, which it had presented as a condition for joining a unity government. As is known, the condition stipulated Likud-Alignment parity in the Cabinet without the extreme right-wing parties. If the Labor Party does not withdraw this condition, next Sunday the NRP will launch negotiations with the Likud over the establishment of a narrow-based government headed by Shamir. [passage omitted]

Government Asked To 'Reconsider' VOA Station

TA1605105990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 May 90 p 3

[Report by Betzal'el 'Amiqam and Hayim Margalit]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, the Knesset plenum accepted a request submitted by Knesset member, Hayim Oron, on behalf of the Mapam [United Workers Party] and CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] factions and sent a last-minute appeal to the government. The appeal demands that the government reconsider its agreement to establish a VOA station in the Negev. The proposal was accepted by a majority of 13 against five.

Oron said that establishing the station will only cause damage, both ecological and other. He claimed that thousands of square kilometers were closed for this station by the Army when it evacuated the Sinai. Touring the Negev today, therefore, requires obtaining eight different permits.

Communications Minister David Magen said in reply that "there is not a single finding to contradict the thorough examinations carried out in the Negev in the past five years, and the government has no reason to discuss the issue yet again." According to him, tests have shown that no ecological damage will be caused by the station. He based his opinion on reports submitted by world-renowned experts who determined that no health hazards to the 'Arava residents are expected.

Magen added that the establishment of the station will make a significant contribution to the development of

the 'Arava settlements and will give an economic push to the whole area. [passage omitted]

Shomron Says Fatah Does Not Operate in Lebanon

TA1505154890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, the chief of staff said that the developments in Iraq must be followed closely. He referred seriously, albeit cautiously, to the menacing remarks of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that in reply to a query of Knesset Member Ra'anan Kohen on whether it is true the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] does not attack Fatah targets in Lebanon, Lieutenant General Shomron said that Fatah does not operate inside Lebanon; therefore, the IDF does not attack it.

Most of the committee members welcomed the decision to reopen the universities in Judaea and Samaria. The chief of staff noted that he was one of those who had recommended the reopening of the universities in the territories.

Ministry 'Encouraged' by Paris Demonstration

TA1505183290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Israel feels encouraged by yesterday's mass demonstration in Paris, in which tens of thousands of people participated. This demonstration served as a forceful expression of opposition to racism and anti-Semitism. Israel would like to thank President Mitterrand and the other French leaders and men of conscience for their struggle on this issue, and wishes to express its appreciation to those condemning anti-Semitism and racism in other European countries.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that these statements appear in a communique issued this evening by the Foreign Ministry's spokesman in Jerusalem.

HA'OLAM HAZE Updates Intifadah Casualties

TA1605105290 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 16 May 90 p 6

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 14 May, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 538 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian deaths is 748.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 906 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—660 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
—85 fatalities from asphyxiation.
—58 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—103 fatalities from other causes.

Editorial Assails Syria for Not Attending Summit

TA1505154390 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 14 May 90 p 1

[Editorial: "If You in Damascus Were Sincere!!"]

[Text] The PLO would not have called for the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit, and Yasir 'Arafat would not have made intensive visits to Arab capitals over the last few days calling on the Arab leaders to attend this summit, had recent developments in the region not urgently required the Arab nation to adopt a unified stance toward these developments. The most prominent of these, at least at present, are: Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to the occupied territories, and the malicious and dubious media campaign against a fraternal Arab state, namely Iraq.

Undoubtedly, the presence of all the Arab leaders at this summit will provide it with pan-Arab momentum and make the achievement of a consensus easier, while the absence of one or more Arab states from the summit might disrupt the efforts for a unified stance toward the new developments.

Therefore, the negative position taken thus far by Syria, and reiterated by Damascus to the effect that it "will not attend" the extraordinary Baghdad summit on 28 May, will cast a dark shadow upon the Arab arena. This position is more annoying when Damascus newspapers inquire "about the value of holding an Arab summit not attended by Syria, which is considered to be the leading state in confrontation with Israel," as though anyone were preventing Syria from attending the summit!

In Damascus, they are using the pretext that no one consulted them about the venue and date of the summit, as if this "someone" had called on them to hold an Arab summit in a foreign capital!

The newspapers there, in Damascus, say: Thus the Arabs are proving once again, should the summit be held in its present form, that they and the rest of the world are leagues apart.

We ask: Why does Syria not attend this summit and give the brothers a lesson on how to confront the dangerous challenges, instead of using the pretext of "prior preparation and agreement on the venue and agenda?"

We ask more precisely: For how long will Syria—the regime in Syria—evade facing the facts and serving Arab solidarity sincerely without subterfuge or pretext?

Mourners Involved in Melee at Syrian Border Post

JN1405134390 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0930 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Jordanian authorities today announced that Palestinian funeral marchers attacked the Jordanian al-Ramtha border post on the Syrian border yesterday after they attempted to cross the post without legal permission. Jordanian border guards were compelled to disperse the marchers by force and to detain several. The interrogation of these detainees continues in order that those proven to have taken part in the attacks on the Jordanian security men can be referred to justice authorities.

A statement issued by the Jordanian Interior Ministry in Amman today said that the incident took place during the funeral of Mu'tazz Subhi Hamdan, who was a member of a Fatah dissident group under Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], and was detained on 11 September 1985 on charges of assassinating [Palestinian figure] Fahd al-Qawasimi. He died of leukemia last Friday [11 May] at al-Bashir Hospital in Amman.

The statement added that when the mourners arrived at the al-Ramtha border post, a large number of them insisted on crossing the border illegally, even though Jordanian authorities allowed a limited number to cross the post to deliver the body to the Syrian side. Afterward, a large group of the Palestinian funeral marchers attacked the border post and its personnel, who were compelled to disperse the marchers by force and detain a number of them.

Saddam Envoy Arrives With Summit Message

JN1305164090 Baghdad INA in English 1625 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] Amman, May 13, INA—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Jordanian King Husayn, Mr. Akram 'Abd-al-Qadir, minister of justice arrived here this afternoon.

The presidential envoy will deliver an invitation from President Husayn to the Jordanian monarch to attend the Arab extraordinary summit scheduled to be held in Baghdad on 28th this month.

'Abd-al-Qadir said upon his arrival that he would also deliver similar invitations to the heads of the Arab Cooperation Council states (ACC) and the president of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

PLO's 'Abbas Arrives for 'Consultations'

JN1505165290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 May 90 p 19

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu-Mazin, arrived yesterday in Amman on a short visit to Jordan. He will meet with a number officials within the framework of coordination and consultations between Jordan and the PLO.

Two AIDS Carriers From University Deported

JN1305073890 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 May 90 Second Edition p 1

[By Ibrahim al-Kharsah]

[Text] Sources at the Jordan University Hospital have asserted that two students at the university have been found to carry the AIDS virus.

The sources added that the first case involves an Omani student and the second a Chinese student. These sources affirmed, moreover, that both students, who contracted the virus through blood transfusions, have been deported. They further added that no student at the university is an AIDS carrier, and that what is being circulated about a Jordanian student carrying the virus is untrue.

Health Ministry Says 38 AIDS Cases in Jordan

JN1405135090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 May 90 p 3

[By Iliya Nasrallah, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—The Ministry of Health Sunday [13 May] denied reports published in Al-Dustur newspaper about the discovery of two new cases of the killer disease AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and said that the present number of cases of all AIDS victims in Jordan stood at 38.

Out of these seven have already died or left the country while the rest are being either proven cases of victims of AIDS or AIDS carriers placed under strict surveillance, according to Health Ministry officials who preferred anonymity.

The officials were commenting on a report in Al-Dustur daily Sunday on the discovery of two AIDS cases of an Omani and a Chinese student in Jordan.

The report quoted Dr. Mislih al-Tarawinah, dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, as saying that the Chinese student has already left the country, while the Omani student was still at large and his whereabouts were not known.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said that hemophiliacs due to blood transfusions abroad were likely to contact AIDS.

Al-Tarawinah said the cases had been proved by laboratory tests at the Jordan University Hospital.

The last reported cases had been proved by laboratory tests at the Jordan University Hospital.

The last reported cases of AIDS in Jordan were in April 1989 when the Ministry of Health announced that the number of cases had reached 25, but that the number was on the rise.

Since the mid-1980s the blood bank in Jordan has banned the importation of blood and hospitals have been relying on locally donated blood for operations.

No blood transfusion can take place in the country without strict precautions and tests, according to Health Ministry officials.

In 1988, a national committee was formed in Jordan to launch a campaign to spread awareness among members of the public on precautionary measures to avoid contacting AIDS.

Cabinet Approves Economic Agreement With UAE

JN1605008490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 May 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Cabinet Tuesday authorised Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad Fariz to exchange instruments of ratification of an economic, commercial, and technical cooperation agreement with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The agreement was concluded in June 1989 to encourage the export and import of agricultural, and industrial products between the two countries. The agreement also provides for giving priority in transporting goods from and to both countries to Jordanian and UAE vehicles. It called for increased technical cooperation and for the exchange of experts in addition to encouraging the transfer of capitals [as published] between the two countries, and giving such capitals the privileges, gurantees and rights contained in the wider agreement on the investment of Arab capitals in Arab states.

The Jordan-UAE agreement calls for offering all necessary facilities to encourage setting up joint companies and projects.

A special committee made up of representatives of the two countries will be formed to follow up on the implementation of the agreement's provisions. The committee will meet annually or at the request of one of the parties in Amman and Abu Dhabi by rotation.

Islamic Leader Discusses Marches, Jihad, U.S.

JN1405095290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 May 90 p 3

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, official spokesman of the Islamic Movement deputies at the House of Representatives, has declared that peace marches under any slogan do not achieve results. He advised those organizing marches to restudy the use of staging such marches in Jordan, the country at the forefront of mobilization and steadfastness.

At a press conference held at the Islamic Movement headquarters yesterday, 'Arabiyat said he is confident that they—referring to the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee—will find that the Palestine question benefits more from intensifying efforts to confront the octopus of the Zionist lobbies in the United States.

He added that the religious trend (the Muslim Brotherhood group) views the proposed so-called peaceful initiatives as a continuation of the Zionist course, as the Zionists fly balloons carrying hollow peace slogans to gain time. Meanwhile, he added, they draw up plans, implement them, and confiscate the Palestinian land through this implementation.

Dr. 'Arabiyat reiterated the Islamic Movement's rejection of all peaceful plans and initiatives. He said: Jihad [holy war] is the only way to restore our rights in Palestine, from the River [Jordan] to the [Mediterranean] Sea.

He said our rejection of the march does not prevent us from appreciating the efforts of the American-Arab Antidiscrimination Committee and its confrontation of the activities of the Zionist lobbies there and its unveiling of the falsehood of the Zionist allegations.

Referring to U.S. policy in the region, Dr. 'Arabiyat said: The U.S. hostility and arrogance must motivate our Arab and Islamic nation to put an end to the course of begging and capitulation that it is immersed in.

He said that our nation is required to adopt a strong Arab-Islamic stand to draw a line for the United States and to affirm that the Arab and Islamic dignity is too strong to be tamed or humiliated. He demanded that the Americans be dealt with on the basis of their hostility to Arab causes and rights.

On the Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Palestine, Dr. 'Arabiyat said this invasion constitutes the beginning of the Zionist design to implement the Zionist dream of establishing Greater Israel over the Arab soil from the Nile to the Euphrates. Hence, he said, the danger of this emigration not only poses a threat to Palestine or Jordan, but also to the entire Arab homeland and part of the Islamic world in southern Turkey.

He said the U.S. plotting is evident in the U.S. decision to curb Jewish emigration to the United States. He affirmed that the U.S.-backed invasion of Palestine cannot be halted by merely panting after peace, but by remobilizing the Arab and Islamic nation and preparing it for jihad and martyrdom. He said the first moves toward this mobilization are to turn Jordan into a land of mobilization and steadfastness, to arm everyone capable of carrying arms, and to open the border to every fighter wishing martyrdom over the blessed soil of Palestine.

Referring to national unity, Dr. 'Arabiyat said that our national unity is the main target of plots and intrigues so as to make it easy for the enemy to implement its aggressive designs against Jordan, the land of mobilization and steadfastness.

He said every act that might lead the disruption of national unity is tantamount to the crime of dealing with the enemy, because the primary and sole side that stands to benefit from undermining national unity is the enemy. He affirmed the Islamic Movement's rejection of all

regional, sectarian, or racial discrimination, and of all discrimination between the citizens of Jordan.

He added that the overwhelming success achieved by the Islamic trend in Jordanian universities has affirmed the genuine affiliation of the future generations in Jordan and their pride in great Islam. He said this is a sign of a future impregnable Jordan that yields to no plots.

Dr. 'Arabiyat believes birth control in Jordan will be a conspiracy serving Zionist plans to deprive Arab lands—especially Jordan, the land of concentration [of Islamic forces] and steadfastness—of much needed manpower at a time when there is an influx of Jews from the Soviet Union, Argentine, Ethiopia, Brazil, Peru, and eastern Europe to Palestine in the most dangerous invasion threatening the entire Arab and Islamic homeland.

He said: The Islamic Movement in Jordan believes, like all honorable Arabs and Muslims elsewhere, that the blessed Palestinian intifadah against the Zionist usurpation forces is a glimmer of hope that dissipates the darkness and despair surrounding us from all sides. It also believes that this blessed intifadah is a proud challenging stand against Arab defeatism and all plots to subject the nation to the plans of the Zionist enemy and its allies in the West and the East.

Dr. 'Arabiyat called on all the active forces in the Palestinian intifadah to unify their ranks against the enemy. He also called upon all Palestinian factions to return to their old policy of backing armed struggle as the only means to liberate Palestine; the whole of Palestine, from the sea to the river. This return, he said, would pave the way for the desired national Palestinian unity.

Dr. 'Arabiyat said: Despite the disappointment of previous Arab summits, our Arab and Islamic nation has aways hoped its rulers would face up to the danger threatening the entire Arab and Islamic existence and come to an agreement, thereby putting an end to Arab divisions and to the policy of submission to the Zionist enemy, which is backed by evil forces.

Dr. 'Arabiyat said: We hope that all Arab rulers would face up to the danger. For it is through unity and staunch adherence to their rights that the Arabs can foil Zionist expansionist designs.

Dr. 'Arabiyat urged the Arab rulers not to disappoint their peoples in these difficult times. He said they should emerge from their conference in Baghdad in one rank and one hand in order to restore the nation's violated dignity and prestige and declare jihad as God's way to defeat the aggressors and regain Arab rights in Palestine as well as other Arab and Islamic countries.

Dr. 'Arabiyat called on the government to permit the publication of new newspapers and magazines without having to wait for the results of the National Charter Commission's deliberations. He said the government should approve all applications to issue such newspapers and magazines under the current press law, despite its shortcomings.

He also called for modernizing the current press law with the cooperation of the Journalists Union in its capacity as the legitimate representative of the press community.

Replying to a question, Dr. 'Arabiyat said members of the House of Representatives who are in the National Charter Commission have agreed on certain basic points, which are not subject to discussion, dispute or to the vote. He said: The constants of the constitution are the constants of the charter and constants are not put to discussion or to the vote.

He said: We call for the formation of a frontier army of steafast men to serve as a nucleus for the al-Aqsa Army, the army of the faithful, because we are for a solution based on Jihad, not a peaceful solution with the Jews. We are also for a Palestinian state on the entire Palestinian soil, not just on a part of this soil.

The press conference was attended by six members of the Islamic Movement; namely, Dr. 'Ali al-Hawamidah, Dr. Humam Sa'id, Dr. Majid Khalifah, Dr. Muhammad Faris, Hamzah Mansur, and 'Abd-al-'Aziz Jabr.

Al-Musawi Threatens 'Execution' of Hostage

NC0905114090 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1125 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, has noted a halt in the process to find a settlement leading to the release of the Western hostages as a result of the U.S. Government's negative stance. He said: If it is confirmed that the Iranian hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been killed, the lives of the Western hostages will be endangered and the reprisal will be the execution of one of the hostages.

REUTER Reports on Hostages Waite, Keenan

NC1505175990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] REUTER today cites pro-Iran sources as having emphasized that hostage Terry Waite, the Anglican Church envoy, is in good health and has recovered from a recent illness.

The sources told REUTER that two Iranian doctors regularly cared for Waite until his health deteriorated two months ago when a doctor at the American University Hospital in Beirut undertook his treatment.

The sources said that a resolution of the issue of the Western hostages held in Lebanon is near and that Washington and Tehran are holding direct talks in this regard. The sources said that Israel's refusal to meet the demands of those holding the Western hostages by releasing 500 Arab detainees has obstructed the process of releasing more American hostages following the release of Polhill and Reed.

The sources said that this Israeli stand has complicated matters but that talks between Iran and the United States on the release of hostages are continuing behind the scenes, in more than one place, and through several envoys. The sources affirmed that the talks are progressing and that the issue will get moving again in the next few weeks.

Terry Waite was kidnapped on 20 January 1987 when he came to Lebanon to negotiate with those holding the hostages.

In another development, Irish Ambassador Antoin MacUnfraidh [name as received], who has held contacts in Lebanon, has stated that Irish hostage Brian Keenan is not expected to be released soon.

In a statement to REUTER, MacUnfraidh said: One must be optimistic but there is nothing particular that makes me expect an early release for the Irish hostage.

Referring to the release of two American hostages last month, MacUnfraidh said: The atmosphere has changed and we hope that this change will lead to the release of all hostages.

'Awn Calls for General Parliamentary Elections

LD1505122190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1043 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 15 (KUNA)—Christian military leader General Michel 'Awn Tuesday [15 May] called for holding general parliamentarian [as received] elections in Lebanon under the Arab and international auspices.

'Awn speaking to daily AL-QABAS published here today, said that there is no solution to the Lebanese problem except through "a Lebanese personality" and described himself as representing the Lebanese situation. He renewed his intention on remaining at the B'abda Presidential Palace until elections are held or he is forced out of the palace. He underlined the urgency of a cure for the Lebanese problem, claiming that solutions presented to resolve the Lebanese conflict roam around it and would never bring it to an end.

'Awn denounced the al-Ta'if accord, contending that it changes the structure of the Lebanese state and does not provide a solution for the prolonged civil war.

Concerning his relations with Syria, 'Awn said that he agrees with the Syrians on several points concerning fighting occuption in Lebanon yet he differs with them on the "problem of sovereignty and independence".

Ja'ja' Views 'Awn Proposal as 'Positive Sign'

NC1505161690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1432 GMT 15 May 90

[Telephone interview with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' by unidentified Voice of Lebanon correspondent on 15 May—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Ja'ja'] As we have always said, this crisis and war must come to an end. An important and radical development has taken place over the last two days, although it has not yet fully materialized. By this development I mean the talk by sources close to General 'Awn that he is ready to leave B'abda Palace and step down should His Beatitude Patriarch Sfayr and the Bishops Council decide to take responsibility for the current situation and see what can be done. I believe this is a very important development and a positive sign. Certainly his beatitude the patriarch has a lot of thinking to do, but at least we have a way out. Now it is time for cooperation and consultations by all of us—particularly his beatitude the patriarch, who will hold contacts and consultations to prepare for assuming responsibility during a transitional period from the time Gen. 'Awn leaves B'abda Palace until the legitimate government takes over the palace. I hope this is a serious initiative and proposal and that it will serve the interests of all Lebanese, the eastern area, the Lebanese Forces, the Lebanese Army, and Gen. 'Awn in particular.

[Correspondent] Dr. Ja'ja', until now the situation as we see it is that it is always you who responds swiftly to the patriarch's appeals. However, today Gen. 'Awn is speaking positively, as you mentioned, and expressing readiness to step down should the patriarch and the Bishops Council ask him to do so. What does this positive stand mean and to what extent do you think this stand can be put into practice?

[Ja'ja'] I do not want to judge anybody by his intentions. Regardless of the reasons for this positive stand, what we need to consider at the moment is the stand itself. What we should do is take it at face value and act accordingly. Undoubtedly everybody is tired and has had enough. Undoubtedly Gen. 'Awn himself has realized that in the end the current situation will lead nowhere, and will only bring about further devastation and destruction. Perhaps it was from this premise that he proposed his new initiative, his latest initiative. As I told you, regardless of the background and reasons, we should take it as it is and start from the basis that this proposal exists and see how it can be implemented to find a solution to the current crisis.

[Correspondent] Gen. 'Awn repeatedly refers to certain expectations, changes of the equation, and changes on the ground. How do you view these expectations and the possibility of such changes?

[Ja'ja'] If you will allow me today, I want to try not to get into much vituperation since we have some positive signs in the offing although they are still being expressed through the media and not through direct envoys or similar practical methods. However, we all need to contribute to the creation of a positive atmosphere in preparation for any positive development or step that anyone is trying to undertake. As for the changes, we heard about them for two years and in the end it turned out that there were no such changes; at least, the kind of changes that Gen. 'Awn is expecting do not exist. As for the changes on the ground, people have become accustomed to hearing this talk, but it has been proven that such talk is incorrect and not serious and that nothing can change the situation on the ground. At any rate, the situation on the ground is stable and no power in the world can change it. So let us not get involved in these labyrinths but rather let us move on to the positive and political aspect of the problem and to dialogue and proceed from Gen. 'Awn's latest gesture toward a solution. [passage omitted]

'Awn Denies Report on Intention To Step Down

NC1605093390 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] In a statement to AL-DIYAR, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn said: The Lebanese Forces militia's attribution of a statement by a source close to me is something that was said nine months ago under general circumstances and within a general framework during a talk on the Lebanese situation. At that time I said: If they believe they can guarantee the Lebanese people's interest and can prove this, then I am ready to hand over B'abda Palace to them. However, Ja'ja' has misstated the time this statement was made. This is cheap exploitation on his part for the sake of imaginary gains after he became bankrupt politically and isolated on all levels.

This subject is no longer current. I tell Ja'ja': We will remain at B'abda to receive him as he promised his fighters.

Gen. 'Awn also told AL-DIYAR: Ja'ja' tried to acquire gains through his recognition of the al-Ta'if accord and by riding on its bandwagon. He has received nothing. On the contrary, he has becomer more politically isolated. He then tried the military option to achieve certain gains. He was beaten back and suffered immense losses despite the support given to him by regional and international parties. Now and after his political and military bankruptcy, he is searching for a propaganda victory only to find imaginary gains. His resurrection of a nine-month old story proves his twisted methods, which no longer deceive anyone. In the past he tried this with his news about my travel to Paris, news which was proved false. The only solution left to Ja'ja' is to declare his political, military, and propaganda bankruptcy and to leave. The Lebanese areas will then open to each other, and Lebanon in general, particularly the eastern area, will be able to rest from the plots concocted in which Ja'ja' became involved and by which he harmed the homeland and the people.

AL-NAHAR: Tripartite Initiative Possible

NC1505124190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Today AL-NAHAR cites a leading political figure as saying that yesterday's proposal by King Fahd could be a prelude to an initiative to be declared by the Arab tripartite committee for settling the conflicts in various parts of Lebanon. The initiative will be composed of a call for a cease-fire, for recognizing the al-Ta'if agreement, and for joining the legitimacy. The foreign ministries of the committee's member countries and its permanent representative Lakhdar Ibrahimi will try to have that initiative implemented.

Press Views Syria's Position on Baghdad Summit

JN1605091590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 May 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Arab Position Between Anger and Action," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It is a fatal mistake to get angry when discussing pan-Arab issues and how to tackle them. It has been shown that such behavior only serves the nation's enemies. We are saying this at a time when there is much talk about the need to hold an Arab summit without preparations, consultations, or attention to the views of other parties, particularly those who have a basic and major role in preparations and consultations for the summit, in particular Syria, with its diverse and extensive weight in the vital conflict against the Zionist enemy and in efforts to confront its expansionist and hostile policy.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: All parties understand that Syria has always been, and will continue to be, in favor of any joint Arab action. Leader al-Asad was the first Arab leader to warn of the seriousness of the situation in the region, particularly the threats posed by Soviet and non-Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine. He has stressed the importance of disregarding minor mistakes for the sake of more important considerations, and that the summit must serve the nation's interests—not those of this or that person.

Commenting on the same subject, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says that those who want an effective and successful summit should not ignore Syria's weight and the importance of its firm policies on the nation's future plans and on reaching agreement on a qualitative Arab strategy to confront challenges and dangers.

AL-THAWRAH says: If the summit constitutes an opportunity to meet on the basis of collective solidarity, then those who insist on holding and attending it will be the first to open fire on the spirit of solidarity and will cause a feeling of frustration in Arab citizens, and consequently will shake the Arabs' confidence in the Arab summit as an institution and in its resolutions. This is the objective of those who are panting after such a summit to serve personal objectives and whims.

In its commentary on the same subject, TISHRIN says that Syria will continue to rise to the challenges and serve higher pan-Arab interests. It will always be faithful to this pioneering and responsible pan-Arab stance.

Al-Asad, Al-Hirawi Discuss Arab Summit, Lebanon

JN0905164390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 May 90

[Excerpts] Talks between President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi began at 1130 today at the Presidential Palace. [passage omitted]

Talks centered around the situation in the region, the subject of convening an emergency Arab summit, and the Lebanese arena in light of the abnormal situation prevalent in the eastern sector of Beirut. There was general accord on the topics under discussion.

The talks between President al-Asad and President al-Hirawi were interrupted by a working lunch which the president gave in honor of the presidential guest. The lunch was attended by those participating in the talks. [passage omitted]

Khaddam Holds Talks With Lebanese Ministers

JN1505165890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Damascus—At 1100 today, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Lebanese Education Minister 'Umar Karami. Talks focused on various aspects of cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as on developments in the Lebanese arena. At 1330 today, the vice president also received Lebanese Industry and Oil Minister Souren Khanamirian. Their talks covered ways to reinforce fraternal relations.

Romanian Minister, Al-Zu'bi Hold Discussions

JN1505152690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning received Romanian Construction Minister Alexandru Dimitriu.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Irrigation Eng. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, Dimitriu conveyed the greetings of Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman to al-Zu'bi, who asked him to convey his greetings to the Romanian counterpart. Discussions dealt with current economic and technical cooperation, joint ventures under way, and various issues pertaining to bilateral agreements and their results. They stressed the need for promoting cooperation between Syria and Romania so that the joint interests of both countries in various fields can be achieved.

Interior Minister Discusses Democracy's Progress

JN0905162190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 May 90

["Highlights" of press conference by Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah in Damascus on 9 May from "News Reports" program; read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah has said that the new general elections for the fifth legislative term of the People's Assembly, scheduled for 22 May, put before us an important fact; namely, that the practice of popular democracy—whose basis was founded by the glorious Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad—has become a de facto reality in our people's

life. This was stated at a press conference held by the interior minister this morning and attended by Brigadier General Ahmad Hilal, assistant interior minister of civil affairs; the director of Moral Guidance; and representatives of Syrian media institutions.

The interior minister noted that by perpetuating and developing throughout the years of the Corrective Movement, the democratic experiment has succeeded in entrenching the principle of the citizen's freedom and the masses' confidence that the stage of political action is open to all, and in instilling the citizen's responsibility for building the society and for following up the democratic process in the constitutional institutions, particularly the People's Assembly, which represents the people.

The interior minister noted the legal and administrative measures taken by the Interior Ministry in preparation for holding the elections in accordance with the law, especially in regard to organizing the elections and achieving the best terms to guarantee the citizen's safety and freedom. He stated that the Interior Ministry departments are working day and night to follow up the process of elections and the required measures, as well as to respond to any questions that might come up from the governorates. [passage omitted]

The interior minister was asked about the people's great interest in the elections and the number of candidates in every area compared with the previous terms and the scientific background of the candidates for this term. He noted that this great interest shows the citizens' confidence that the stage of action is open to all, and that every citizen has a role to play in laying down the foundation of internal construction and entrenching the pillars of popular democracy. The increase in the number of the People's Assembly members from 195 to 250 is an expression of the commitment of the political leadership led by leader Comrade Hafiz al-Asad to strengthening the foundations of the democratic system and expanding popular participation. [passage omitted]

The interior minister affirmed that all candidates, whether from the National Progressive Front or from the independents, are treated on an equal basis with regard to the election law. He added that the people alone have the right to choose the competent candidate who can represent them the in best manner and materialize their hopes and aspirations.

Asked about the method which the sons of al-Qunaytirah Governorate can follow to exercise their right to elect their representatives, the interior minister said that they can elect the representatives of their governorate in all constituencies. In an exception to the law, special polling places have been set up in all areas where they are concentrated in order to reaffirm the unity of the Governorate. [passage omitted]

Arab Professional Associations' Statement Rejected

JN1605124690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Amman—Jordanian papers this morning published what they termed the final statement of the Conference of Arab Professional Associations. Ou. of their desire to give the truth to their professional colleagues and Arab public opinion, the representatives of the Syrian professional associations that took part in this conference would like to state the following:

At 0700 on 14 May 1990, when representatives of Arab professional associations were getting ready to participate in the ["right of return" protest] march, copies of the draft of a final statement were distributed. After reading this draft, representatives of some Arab professional associations objected to the statement because what it contained was completely contrary to remarks made during the conference, which called on delegations to present their written and oral comments concerning the draft of the above statement.

Discussions intensified among some members of the conference's organization committee. In conclusion, it was agreed to cancel the statement mentioned above because it did not express the results of the conference, and to be content with delivering a speech during the march to include the points the conference actually stressed. These are:

1. To support the valiant intifadah morally and materially and rally all our potential so it can continue.

2. To support effective Arab solidarity to liberate all Palestinian territories.

3. To affirm that armed struggle is the only way to liberate all the occupied Arab lands and the only adequate means of fending off the dangers of the ever-increasing Jewish emigration to the Zionist entity.

4. To condemn capitulationist solutions and any meeting with the Zionist enemy.

This is what the chairman of the conference expressed in the speech he delivered before the march. What was termed the final statement published in the newspapers thwarts the aspirations of the masses of the Arab Professional Associations and diminishes the importance of the conference's results. This required clarification.

India

'Major' Parties Differ on U.S. Move on Kashmir

BK1605072690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0634 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 16 (AFP)—Two major political parties backing the Indian Government Wednesday [16 May] expressed divergent views on a U.S. move to send an envoy to India and Pakistan to urge dialogue over Kashmir. The right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said it had "no objection in principle" to the move by U.S. President George Bush but called on Washington to urge Pakistan to end its alleged support to Muslim militants in Kashmir. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI (M)) said it would await the conclusion of the special envoy's mission, but added that it did not see "much point" in a U.S. role in what it described as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan.

The BJP and Communists led by the CPI (M) are extending crucial support to the five-party National Front government which came to power here in November.

There was no immediate reaction from New Delhi to Mr. Bush's decision to send Robert Gates, number two in the White House's National Security Council, to India and Pakistan to urge dialogue as the way to end the Kashmir conflict. The White House announced Tuesday [15 May] that Mr. Gates would visit the two countries May 19 to 21 along with John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. It added that Mr. Gates, currently in Moscow from where he will travel on to the subcontinent, would carry a message from Mr. Bush for officials in India and Pakistan.

BJP President L.K. Advani said it was more important for the United States to exercise its influence with Pakistan to see that Islamabad's "continued support and incitement of subversive activities in Kashmir and Punjab stops." He was referring to the bloody separatist campaigns raging in the Indian states of Kashmir and Punjab, both of which border Pakistan. Islamabad has denied repeated allegations by New Delhi that it backs militants in the two states.

Kashmir, which is disputed by Islamabad, has been the source of two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since 1947.

Mr. Advani said the Kashmir separatist campaign was not a dispute between India and Pakistan "that can be sorted out by negotiation. It is a problem inside India which is openly encouraged by Pakistan in the form of an undeclared war.

"In this matter, the U.S. Government can certainly help by making Pakistan withdraw its hand from Kashmir and Punjab," he added.

CPI (M) Spokesman Sitaram Yechury said the Kashmir issue could be decided bilaterally by India and Pakistan. "We doubt if U.S. mediation can be of any help. As we see it, minus U.S. support, Pakistan cannot go through a war with India. But we will have to wait and see as to what comes out of it (the envoy's visit)," he said.

"We don't see much point in the U.S. exercise," he added.

The White House said Tuesday that the United States was not seeking to provide "direct mediation," but that India and Pakistan had expressed a desire to discuss the Kashmir conflict with Washington.

Indian newspapers which Wednesday reported Mr. Gates' impending visit noted that he was coming from Moscow, with which India enjoys close ties.

The Muslim separatist unrest in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has left some 475 people dead this year, besides sparking off fears of a fourth war between India and Pakistan.

India Protests 'Increased' Pakistani Intrusions

BK1605090090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] India has protested to Pakistan over its increased armed intrusions and smuggling of firearms. Briefing newsmen after the two-day biennial meeting of security officials of India and Pakistan at Wagah near Amritsar, the inspector general of the BSF [Border Security Force], Jullundhur Range, Mr. Prakash Singh, said that armed intrusions from across the border was one of the sensitive issues which was discussed. Other issues included border pillars, flag meetings, and infiltration of Bangladeshis [as heard].

Mr. Singh said that both sides have agreed that a well-defined boundary is essential for maintaining tranquillity along the border and [to] assist each other to achieve common tasks assigned to the security forces of the two countries.

Commentary Faults Pakistan for Interference

BK1505131490 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 May 90

[Khwaja A. Khaliq commentary: "Pakistan Seeks Solution of Its Problems in India"]

[Text] The new government in New Delhi came to power in December last year on the specific commitment to the Indian people that it would have the friendliest and warmest of relations with its neighbors and took immediate initiatives. Relations with Nepal and Sri Lanka, which were not too happy, took on a cordial turn. The only exception among India's close neighbors is Pakistan, which persists in creating grave tension by its gross interference in the internal affairs of India.

Any exercise to fathom the motives of Pakistan's unfriendly behavior leads to the inescapable conclusion that Pakistan wants to divert the attention of its people from the communal, regional, and ethnic divides which have attained unmanageable proportions. These divides

can be traced to the two-nation theory—the basis of the carving out of Pakistan—which was exploded soon after its formation when regional and ethnic forces started raising their heads. The assassination of the first prime minister, Liaqath Ali Khan, who was a Muhajir, that is one who migrated from India in 1951, by the Punjabi clique; the language riots in the eastern wing, now Bangladesh in 1953; and the massacre of Qadianis [Muslim sect] in Punjab clearly showed that the two-nation theory could not and would not hold Pakistan. It was proved when eastern wing became independent and the present-day Pakistan witnessed subnationalist movements in Sindh, Balochistan, and Frontier Province against Punjabi domination.

To keep Pakistan intact, therefore, Pakistani politicians sought to keep the two-nation theory alive. And to achieve this end they created the bogey of an aggressive and expansionist India which oppresses and persecutes its huge Muslim population. Pakistani authorities did so, particularly because India founded its polity and constitution on strictly secular grounds and on the concept of a composite culture which has unity in diversity. Successive Pakistani Governments have always been haunted by the fear of the disintegration of their state despite India's acceptance of the state of Pakistan in all good faith, which was well reflected in the Tashkent Agreement of 1956 and again in the Simla Agreement of 1972, after which India repatriated 90,000 Pakistani prisoners of war and returned some Pakistani territory.

The present adventurism of Pakistan in Punjab and Kashmir where it is sending trained terrorists as well as sophisticated arms to subvert the Indian state is really an attack on the secular structure of the Indian state. It seeks to wheel away Kashmir, which with its Muslim majority, chose to stay with India at the time of partition and the establishment of the Sikh state in Punjab and thus to show that Muslims and Sikhs do not want to live in India. But the game plan of Pakistani strategists is out of the bag. The world knows that Pakistan is ridden by communal, regional, and ethnic divides. Sindhis, Balochs, and Pathans want to free themselves from the shackles of Punjabis. Then in Karachi, the largest city of Pakistan with its 10 million population, and other towns of Sindh, daily bloodly clashes between Muhajirs and local Sindhis or between Muhajirs and Pakhtuns are the order of the day, as also has been witnessed only yesterday, Monday [14 May]. More than 1,000 persons have died in such clashes since 1986. Muhajirs, those who migrated from India at the time of partition are still Muhajirs and have not even 43 years later been absorbed in the mainstream of Pakistan.

This stands in sharp contrast to the Pakistani refugees who came to India in 1947 and got completely absorbed in the Indian mainstream. This one fact alone proves the catholic character of the Indian polity as against the noncatholicity of the Pakistani society. However, now when Pakistan wages a low cost undeclared war against India, the latter has repeatedly declared that India does not want war with Pakistan. But any attempt to destabilize India will be fought back with full determination. India has ruled out even raids on terrorist training camps in Pakistan. Pakistan is thus shedding crocodile tears over imaginary repression of the Kashmir Muslims.

Australia Asked To Review Jet Deal With Pakistan

BK1605090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] India has requested Australia to review its decision to sell 50 Mirage-3 aircraft to Pakistan. The external affairs minister made the request in a letter to his Australian counterpart and conveyed India's strong objections to the deal.

Replying to a calling-attention notice tabled by Mr. Sudhir Gill, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and Mr. Harish Rawat of the Congress-I on the subject, Mr. Gujral said the Australian move is most unfortunate, particularly in the context of the current tension prevailing in the subcontinent.

Commentary Reviews Relations With Bangladesh

BK1205113590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 May 90

[Station commentary on India-Bangladesh relations]

[Text] The India-Bangladesh relations, despite being cordial, lack the desired warmth and adequate reciprocity, especially on the part of the Bangladesh Government. Over the years, India has consistently sought to develop friendly and good neighborly relations with Bangladesh through bilateral discussions and also through exchange of visits of the two countries' leaders.

There are three main irritants which have remained in the smoothening of relations between the two countries. These are: the sharing of Ganges waters, Tin Bigha, and the return of Chakma refugees from India. However, on the economic front, the relations between the two countries have been strengthened. With a visit of the Indian foreign minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, to Bangladesh in February this year, the relations between the two countries got a shot in the arm. And now that the Supreme Court of India has rescinded all objections to Bangladesh having free passage through the Tin Bigha corridor to its enclaves of Dahagram and Angarpota, the relations between the two countries are bound to improve. In the past, this particular issue had kept the two sides away. But India's Supreme Court verdict holding the right of free passage to Bangladesh over the Indian territory of Tin Bigha under the bilateral agreements of 1974 and 1982 has removed this irritant. The Supreme Court judgment has already elicited favorable response from the Bangladesh leaders. President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has remarked that the Supreme Court verdict would pave the way for the implementation of the 1982 agreement that it had signed with then prime minister. Even the major opposition parties, including the Awami League and the

Bangladesh Nationalist Party, have welcomed the verdict. The Indian Government has also welcomed the Supreme Court verdict. The Indian Government has always shown willingness to transfer the corridor to Bangladesh. But individual Indian citizens went to the court challenging the transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh and the litigation problem had led to the delay.

Mr. Gujral has already said that India is keen that India and Bangladesh be friends. The two countries must cooperate for the benefit of both the countries and for the region as well, the minister desired. Mr. Gujral said, and I quote, we are ready to go more than half the way through cooperation which would be profitable to all, unquote. He had however said that long-standing issues could not be solved overnight. But what was important was that the two countries should make a beginning and look for a solution which is fair and equitable to both the sides.

There is a feeling in India that under the ad hoc sharing arrangements of 1977, 1982 and 1985, India has shouldered an unfairly heavy and disproportionate burden of the shortages in Ganges waters. This was purely done out of friendship with Bangladesh and in the hope that this would be a purely temporary arrangement, the minister has stated. But notwithstanding India's consistent endeavor to develop friendly and good neighborly relations with Bangladesh it has not invariably responded positively. For instance, Bangladesh president's statement on Kashmir has not been appreciated by India because he had taken the view of one party only into consideration. He would have made better appreciation of the issue if he had also given thought to Indian point of view also on the Kashmir problem.

However, the 64,000 Chakma refugees from Bangladesh who have crossed into India over the years remain a big problem for the Government of India. But now that the Bangladesh Government has taken some initiatives for the repatriation of the refugees it is being welcomed in the official circles in India. Already India's high commissioner in Bangladesh, Mr. Srinivasan, has visited Tripura and discussed with the Tripura chief secretary, Mr. Gupta, the Chakma tribal refugees issue. A team of Bangladesh officials has also visited the Garbuk and Pancharatanpara refugee relief camps. However, there is tension in Katalcheri and other refugee camps in the wake of clashes where nearly 58,000 tribal refugees from the strife-torn Chittagong hill areas are residing. The refugees are a big financial burden on the government which is incurring an expenditure of nearly 5 million rupees per month on their upkeep. As a matter of fact, in the first instance India has allowed these refugees, who are to be repatriated as soon as possible. [sentence as heard] The Bangladesh Government is maintaining that there are only 10,000 refugees in south Tripura camps although India's home minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, has informed the Lok Sabha only zrecently that the exact number of refugees was 64,000. Despite all these hurdles, India has been extending all help to Bangladesh for its various development projects. There is now a new hope of betterment of relations between the two neighbors.

Narcotic Agents Seize Heroin From Liberian Woman

BK1305075690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0743 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] New Delhi, May 13 (AFP)—Indian narcotic detectives seized 5.8 million dollars worth of heroin at the airport here from a Liberian woman travelling on a forged Tanzanian passport.

Marksee Kamara, 26, was arrested Saturday [12 May] as she tried to travel to Nairobi with the passport which had her name as Mary Kamara, a spokesman for the Foreigners Regional Registration Office said.

A search of her baggage, which was offloaded from the Gulf Airways flight she was supposed to take, revealed 10 packets of heroin concealed in bed linen with an international street value of about 5.8 million dollars, he said.

Ms. Kamara came to India on April 8 and had procured the forged Tanzanian passport because Tanzanians do not require a visa to go to Nairobi, the spokesman said.

She was booked on charges of forgery as well as drug smuggling.

New Nagaland Ministry Assumes Office 15 May

BK1505161490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpt] In Nagaland, a 14-member ministry headed by the leader of the newly formed United Legislature Party, Mr. K.L. Ghishi, assumed office this evening. The governor, Dr. M.M. Thomas, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Ghishi and his colleagues at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Kohima. Among the ministers, eight are of cabinet rank and five ministers of state. [passage omitted]

Situation Improves in Srinagar; Day Curfew Lifted

BK1605043290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] In Srinagar, the day curfew has been lifted from today. This follows further improvement in the situation. The relaxation in day curfew will be for 12 hours from 0700.

Meanwhile, the security forces are continuing their drive against the subversives trying to infiltrate into India after their training in the terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Two subversives were killed in Bandipura and Kutwara sectors yesterday, and 38 arrested. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from them.

Iran

Paper Calls for Hostage Roger Cooper's Death

NC1605104490 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 16 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper on Wednesday said that Roger Cooper, a British businessman held here on spying charges since 1985, should be sent home in his coffin. JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, close to Iran's Muslim hardliners, also demanded that Britain surrender author Salman Rushdie "to Muslims, so that he can be judged."

The remarks came as officials from Iran and the European Economic Community (EEC) met in Dublin to discuss the fate of Western hostages in Lebanon and other contentious issues.

Britain "expects the meeting to resolve its problems with Iran, which shows the humiliating situation that London finds itself in with regard to the Islamic Republic," the paper said. Denouncing Britain for wanting "to impose its will on other members of the EEC," the paper said Iran should put Mr. Cooper to death.

"It is inadmissible that a state ... can expect that the release of a spy is negotiable and we can only respond to such insolence by sending the corpse of Roger Cooper back to London."

Iranian leaders have called on Muslims around the world to hunt down and kill Mr. Rushdie, accused here of having blasphemed Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." An Indian-born Muslim, Mr. Rushdie went into seclusion under British police protection after Iran's late spiritual guide, Ayatollah Khomeyni, called for his death in February 1989. The death sentence triggered a formal break in Iranian-British diplomatic relations a month later.

"If Great Britain apologizes to the Muslim world (for hiding Mr. Rushdie), promises never again to commit such an arrogant action, and turns Mr. Rushdie over to Muslims so that he can be judged, the problem will be resolved," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Reply to Iraq: Saddam 'Initiator' of War

LD1605124390 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday summed up fresh diplomatic efforts for the resumption of pending peace talks between Iran and Iraq and noted that the venue of the talks would possibly be Moscow. 'ABRAR' in a front page article also quoted three members of the Majles foreign [affairs] committee who have studied the recent letter of the Iraqi president to the Iranian officials as well as the reply.

Qorban 'Ali Salehabadi said that the influx of two million Jews to the occupied Palestinian lands which threatens national interest and territorial integrity of all countries in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf region and in the Horn of Africa was among other reasons convincing Iraqi government to send a letter to Iran. Meanwhile, he added, all Middle Eastern states including Iraq are being pressed by their revolutionary forces to support Iran as the vanguard of an anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist campaign. He also pointed to the change in the attitude prevailing in the latest session of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the positive hints in the interview of the Council's secretary general, as other reasons which motivated Iraq to send the letter to Iran.

However, Salehabadi stressed, "at present we are determined to work for establishment of a permanent and lasting peace and consider war as the last option and not the first one." He expressed hope that Arab states and the Iraqi Government realize the fact that Iran "is fully prepared to combat against Israel, the Zionists and imperialists in the Middle East in cultural, political, military and economic domains." Once Arabs and the Islamic Republic of Iran are united, no doubt, foreign forces would leave the Persian Gulf waters and would never dream of intervening in these waters, he told ABRAR.

Another Majles deputy, member of the Foreign Commission Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, told ARBAR that Iran's reply to the Iraqi letter was made after sufficient considerations and careful study at expert level. He noted that although no major change could be noticed in Iraq's general stance from the contents of the Iraqi letter, "in whole it was a serious letter".

Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadeq Khalkhali, another member of the committee, said that the letter had been written by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn himself who had signed it "Husayn, a servant of God". He noted that Saddam had expressed hope that his government would no more be provoked by the others and that no war would be broken out. [as received]

In fact, Khalkhali added Saddam had implicitly confessed that he did not favour the war and had been used as a tool to wage the war on Iran.

In Iranian reply it has been asserted that Saddam had been the initiator of the war and that he directly shouldered all the responsibility for shedding the blood of Muslim Iranian and Iraqi people, Khalkhali noted.

*Paper Reports on Saddam's Letter, Proposal

90AS0067A London KEYHAN in Persian 10 May 90 p 1

[Text] Saddam Husayn, the president of Iraq, in a letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announced Iraq's willingness to solve the problems between the two countries based on the 1975 Algiers Accord. This letter was given to 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York by Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary-general of the United Nations.

In its Tuesday 1 April news broadcast, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO made a vague and passing reference

to this letter and said: "At today's meeting of the Supreme National Security Council, Foreign Minister Velayati reported to council members on his recent talks with the secretary-general of the United Nations. A letter from the Iraqi government about peace talks and regional conditions was also studied at this session, and the appropriate decisions were made."

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO declined to give further explanation on the letter and Iraq's proposal, and during the last 10 days the details of Iraq's letter still have not been disclosed. In its news broadcast, this radio station did not even mention the fact that Iraq has agreed to peace talks based on the 1975 Algiers Accord, but the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT published in Saudi Arabia, which published this report, disclosed the main contents of Saddam Husayn's letter accepting the Algiers Accord.

In a telephone contact Tuesday [8 May] by KEYHAN (London) to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran to obtain additional infoe-mation concerning Saddam Husayn's letter, the office of the deputy minister for political affairs declined to give any kind of explanation in this regard, and referred the matter to the regular Foreign Ministry spokesman. The regular spokesman also declined to discuss this matter on the pretext of having to attend a meeting that was to last until 4:00 PM.

The London newspapers, which published news of Saddam Husayn's letter to Hashemi-Rafsanjani seven days late on Tuesday of this week, cited informed sources and wrote that one of Saddam Husayn's proposals in this letter was that peace talks be held in Mecca, and it is not clear that Iran would accept this in view of the atmosphere of enmity between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Quoting an informed source within the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the TIMES wrote that the reaction of the regime's leaders to Saddam Husayn's proposal was positive, and saw the reduction in the number of propaganda attacks against Iraq by ISLAMIC REPUBLIC RADIO as a sign of Iran's positive reaction.

It is not yet clear what position Iraq has taken in its letter concerning such matters as designating the aggressor and the payment of war reparations, or whether or not it has also declared its willingness to carry out the timetable set in the UN's Security Council Resolution 598.

United Nations officials have not yet published any official information concerning Iraq's proposal to hold peace talks, but news about future talks is likely to be published after talks between the secretary-general of the United Nations and Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, to be held this week in Rome or Geneva.

Political observers believe that the reason for Iraq's change of position on the 1975 Algiers Accord on borders and its expression of willingness to hold peace talks on the basis of this accord, which ultimately entails the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from 1,600 square meters of Iranian soil and the acceptance of the Thalweg line as the border in the Arvand border river Shatt al-'Arab, is due to Iraq's weak position in international political affairs and the Ba'athist regime's efforts to extricate itself from its current crisis.

On the other hand, there is also the possibility that the United States of America pressured the Iraqi regime to make peace with Iran. During the incident of the release of the American hostages, it was said that one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's conditions for releasing the hostages was that America pressure the Iraqi regime for full implementation of Resolution 598.

Further Reportage on Benazir Bhutto's Visit

Commentary Previews Tehran Visit

NC1505112290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0448 GMT 15 May 90

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is to arrive in Tehran on a one-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. A Central News Unit correspondent's report from Islamabad states that the Pakistani prime minister will be accompanied by a 30-member delegation including the foreign minister, other ministers, and political dignitaries.

The Pakistani prime minister's visit to Iran will be the first leg of a trip which will take her to eight countries in the Middle East and South Africa. In the first phase, after visiting Iran, she will visit Turkey, Jordan, Syria, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. In the second phase of the visit, which will start on 12 June, Bhutto will visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

Before the Pakistani prime minister's visit, the Pakistani deputy foreign minister spoke about the objectives behind these visits and stated that during her meetings with the heads of these countries, the Pakistani prime minister will discuss international developments and serious Islamic problems, especially that of Kashmir.

Political observers assess the first phase of the Pakistani prime minister's visit positively. It will begin with a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran and with her talking with high-ranking Iranian officials in Tehran. The visit will especially take into consideration the good mutual relations and the fact that views will be exchanged on major regional problems and problems of the Islamic world. It is said that this visit is of special significance because of changing world developments and because of developments in Kashmir, Palestine, and Afghanistan, which have complicated problems Muslims now face.

Relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan have always been based on good neighborliness because of the two countries' common culture. Relations between Tehran and Islamabad entered a new phase especially after

the victory of the Islamic revolution and thanks to the Pakistani Muslims' supportive and anti-arrogant stands. The two countries' good and friendly relations developed more as the trend of democracy grew in Pakistan and with the establishment of a government chosen by the Pakistani people. This and its effects were markedly felt as both political and economic relations improved.

Economic cooperation among Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, is another important point. The Islamic Republic's initiatives have led to a growing need for closer relations between Islamabad and Tehran. This is at a time when it is said that the special session of the three countries to discuss ECO objectives is considered a most important pivot for expanding economic and political relations among the three countries.

Political experts point to the need for regional cooperation in view of the rapid developments in the world and the region. Thus the visits exchanged by high-ranking officials of both countries at various junctures and especially the Pakistani prime minister's visit, which is her first visit to a neighboring and friendly country after her coming to power, will bring joint relations into a new phase. Since regional developments, especially the Afghanistan problem, depend on cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, the talks and meetings that the Pakistani prime minister will hold with the Islamic Republic's high-ranking officials are especially sensitive. There is no doubt that the exchange of views on this on the eve of the two superpowers' talks on Afghanistan points to the active and coordinating role that the two countries can play in these talks. In view of the fact that the views of Iran and Pakistan are close, especially on the Afghanistan problem, it is expected that the agreements and coordination between the two countries will be effective and constructive as far as the search for a peaceful solution to the Afghanistan problem is concerned. For this reason, political observers believe that the efforts by Tehran and Islamabad to bring views on the Afghanistan problem closer have gained more significance than ever before.

Arrives 'Visibly Happy'

LD1505191590 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 15 May 90

[Excerpts] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto was visibly happy with her visit to the Islamic Republic, upon arrival from Mashhad Tuesday afternoon. She was welcomed at Mehrabad International airport by First Vice President Hasan Habibi. Terming ties with Tehran "historical and friendly," Ms. Bhutto who is scheduled to meet President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Velayati later today, called for expansion of mutual ties.

Habibi expressed hope that the Pakistani premier's visit would entail peace and friendship for the region.

Benazir started her 7-nation 'peace tour', with a pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him]—the 8th imam of the prophet's household—this morning, by arriving at Mashhed directly from Islamabad. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani premier who is to fly to Ankara tomorrow, is to resume her second round of 'peace tour' to Muslim states early June, and would visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain to gather support for the Kashmiri Muslims' demands for self-rule from India.

Meets With President

LD1505191890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] President of the Republic Hashemi-Rafsanjani this afternoon received Ms. Bhutto, prime minister of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

At that meeting, which included First Vice President Habibi as well as the foreign affairs ministers of Iran and Pakistan, topics of mutual interest, including ways and means to expand political, economic and cultural cooperation between Iran and Pakistan, were surveyed. The two also exchanged views on important world problems, especially the Islamic problem of Afghanistan.

At the end of that meeting Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Ms. Benazir Bhutto took part in a meeting which included First Vice President Habibi; the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, transport and roads, economic affairs, and finance of the two countries were also present. During that meeting Ms. Bhutto referred to the priority and importance which she attaches to her country's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. She said: Nothing makes us happier than to see Iran as a successful and powerful country in the region. We are ready to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields and no country can prevent the expansion of these relations. The prime minister of Pakistan also expressed thanks for the declaration of solidarity by the government and nation of Iran with the Muslim peoples of Jammu and Kashmir, and said it was heartening for the nation of Pakistan and is regarded as a symbol of Iran's courage in stating its prinipled stances.

Referring to the close and sincere relations between Iran and Pakistan Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: From many points of view the fate of Iran has been intertwined with that of Pakistan. This has brought us much closer together. Here the two nations' deep faith in Islam has a special importance. The president said that Iran is interested in expanding relations with Pakistan in all fields and stressed the need to strengthen the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. He later said that the colonial governments are reluctant to solve the problem of Afghanistan. Stressing the need for close cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in putting an end to that problem he added: Leaving the problems of Afghanistan, Jammu and Kashmir, and the problem of Iran-Iraq war

unsolved is in the interests of colonialist and expansionist governments. The president of the republic also said that the problems of Palestine and Lebanon are important problems of the world of Islam. He called for cooperation among all the Muslims of the world, including the two Islamic countries of Iran and Pakistan, in that field.

Later Ms. Bhutto stressed the importance of the problem of Palestine from the Pakistan Government's point of view and said: We regard the problem of Palestine as an Islamic problem and we also believe that Palestinian aspirations are our aspirations. We will stop at no measure against the occupying Jerusalem regime.

In that meeting the prime minister of Pakistan invited President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Pakistan.

Discusses Issues With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

BK1605031890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Formal talks were held between Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran yesterday evening. The talks covered regional and international issues as well as matters relating to further promotion of existing fraternal relations between the two countries. The two leaders were assisted by their principal aides during the talks. The Kashmir issue was on top of the list of regional issues discussed.

Prime Minister Bhutto apprised the Iranian leader of the grave situation in occupied Kashmir and the large-scale repression of the Kashmiri people by Indian forces. She also referred to Pakistan's efforts to reduce the tension in the region. Bhutto added that Pakistan is committed to finding a peaceful political solution to the Kashmir problem in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the UN resolutions which have pledged the right of self-determination to the people of Kashmir.

President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed full support for Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

The two sides also agreed that an early, peaceful, and political settlement of the Afghanistan problem should be found. They decided to continue efforts and consultations to help end differences among various groups of Afghan mujahidin and to find a solution acceptable to all sections of the Afghan people.

On the Iran-Iraq situation, Prime Minister Bhutto stressed the need for full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, saying that it is only through these and through a peace treaty between Iran and Iraq that durable peace can be established in the region.

The leaders expressed the view that bilateral relations can be further promoted under the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization which consists of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. Iran also welcomed Pakistan's participation in development and reconstruction works in Iran.

In a dispatch, Radio Pakistan's representative Bakhshish Ahmad has said that the officials of the two countries described the talks as very successful, reflecting the deep, friendly ties between Pakistan and Iran.

Speaks at Banquet

BK1605024890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated Pakistan's desire to consider any proposal that will help reduce tension and pave the way for a peaceful solution of the Kashmir problem. She was speaking at a banquet hosted by Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in her honor in Tehran last night.

Bhutto said the world, especially the Islamic community, should not remain a silent spectator of the atrocities being committed against the Kashmiri people. All kinds of pressures should be exerted on India to force it to end its repression in Kashmir and find a just solution to the problem according to the wishes of the Kashmiri people. India should not be allowed to create a war psychosis and to take military action against Pakistan.

On Afghanistan, the prime minister said the effects of military intervention are still present in the form of the illegitimate Kabul regime. She expressed the hope that Pakistan and Iran will continue their efforts to achieve a durable settlement that will enable the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland in honor and safety. Bhutto emphasized the need for closer contacts and consultations among Islamic countries in view of the changing global scenario and the problems being faced by the Islamic community.

Earlier, welcoming the prime minister and her delegation, the Iranian president referred to the close, friendly relations between the two countries, describing them as important for regional peace and stability. He said that Iran understands that the Islamic states should work actively to help end the repression of Kashmiri people, and that Iran will continue its efforts toward this end.

The Iranian president fully supported the legitimate rights of the Afghan people and stressed the need for creating unity in the Afghan mujahidin ranks.

Call for Expanded Relations

NC1605075790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] In his toast at a reception [on 15 May] in honor of the Pakistani prime minister and the delegation accompanying her, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her delegation. Pointing to the deep and constructive common points in the two countries' history, culture,

and religion. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani described their countries' borders as ones of peace and friendship.

Our president also emphasized the need to further expand the two countries' relations and stated that the Pakistani prime minister's visit to Iran has positive and constructive effects on the process of bilateral relations and on the growth and expansion of the two countries' relations on various regional and international levels.

The president added: We believe that the rule of Islam in Iran has offered a strong and correct pattern for expanding relations with Islamic countries and that Islamic teachings form the firm foundation of our political thought and our foreign policy activities.

Our president said that the membership of Iran and Pakistan in the Economic Cooperation Organization—ECO—strengthens existing friendly relations and ties. He added: In its new form free from the imposed and colonialist relations of the past, ECO can pave the way for bringing Islamic countries closer to each other. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: By creating the necessary conditions and grounds, ECO will be able to undertake a constructive role in forming an Islamic common market and can hence become a basic and important element for reviving the grandeur of Islam and Muslims.

In another part of his remarks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the problems of the world of Islam and of the Islamic ummah and especially of Muslims in Palestine, Afghanistan, and Kashmir. About the Palestinian problem, he said: We firmly believe that under the existing conditions, averting aggression and establishing the rights of the brave Palestinian people cannot be achieved through talks. We draw the attention of those who seek a solution to the problem in a compromise with the regime occupying Jerusalem to the usurping, aggressive, and expansionist nature of this regime and to the fact that defeated experiences should not be repeated. The president emphasized: We are confident that the future belongs to Islam.

On the Afghanistan problem, our president stated: We believe that a final and comprehensive solution to the Afghanistan problem can be achieved only when the people of Afghanistan act in unison, and the fulfillment of this unity and peace will depend on ending foreign powers' intervention in Afghanistan's affairs. While emphasizing the just rights of Afghanistan's people, the Islamic Republic of Iran wants the Islamic and historic identity and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan to be preserved. We are interested in an independent, nonaligned, and Islamic Afghanistan which has friendly relations with its neighbors, and we will not slight any assistance which would fulfill the needs of the Afghan nation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed to the situation in Kashmir and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that Islamic governments should actively take the necessary steps to end the oppression of the Kashmiri Muslims. We will continue our efforts to eliminate this oppression, and we believe that the time when Muslims were crushed and pressured and their requests ignored throughout the world has ended and that the policy of iron fists regarding Islamic beliefs will not be effective.

The Pakistani prime minister then referred to the historic message of the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, may God rest his soul, to Soviet President Gorbachev and to the new developments in relations between the East and West and stated: New world conditions demand close consultations among the Islamic countries. Especially because of the test that the world of Islam is going through in the Middle East, profound consultations among us are necessary.

In another part of her speech, the Pakistani prime minister expressed hopes that Resolution 598 will be fully implemented in the near future and announced her country's readiness for cooperating in post-war reconstruction.

Lauding the Islamic Republic's stands on the Kashmiri problem, she stated: We want peace, stability, and friendship in our region. But we cannot use our support for the just ideal of a referendum in Kashmir as a scapegoat. She called for a solution to the Kashmiri problem on the basis of the UN resolution and of the spirit of the Simla pact between Pakistan and India.

On Afghanistan, Mrs. Bhutto said: Iran and Pakistan agree on the fact that this problem should be solved by political and peaceful means. She expressed hopes that the two countries will continue to coordinate their policies and steps in relation with this.

In conclusion, the Pakistani prime minister expressed her gratitude for Iran's hospitality once again and described the friendship between Iran and Pakistan as an element of peace and stability in the region, adding: My government's continuous efforts will be aimed at further consolidating our relations in the coming years.

Urges Help for UK Hostage in Lebanon

BK1605095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0943 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 16 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Wednesday [16 May] called on Iran to take the initiative in resolving the problem of Western hostages in Lebanon and made a special appeal for Briton John McCarthy, correspondents said. Addressing a news conference before her departure for Ankara, she urged Iran to seek the release of Mr. McCarthy, whose brother she studied with.

The 33-year-old Mr. McCarthy was a cameraman at the time of his abduction in Beirut on April 17, 1986. His kidnapping was never claimed.

Iran, which helped arrange the release of two Americans in West Beirut last month, has said it will offer no assistance to free the 15 remaining Westerners because the United States had not responded with an appropriate goodwill gesture. Iran wants Washington and the West to pressure Israel and its Lebanese allies into liberating four

Iranians seized in Lebanon in 1982 and hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinians held by Israeli forces.

Ms. Bhutto was on the first leg an eight-nation tour to seek support for Moslem separatists in Indian Kashmir. After Turkey she will visit Syria, Jordan, North Yemen, Egypt, Libya and Tunisia.

Editorials Comment on Visit

LD1505103690 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's one day visit to Iran is welcomed by two Iranian dailies.

In their editorials on Tuesday the morning dailies 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' and 'TEHRAN TIMES' said during her meetings with the Iranian officials, Ms. Bhutto besides bilateral issues will raise the question of the Indian-held Kashmir.

The Persian Daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said, "the issue of Kashmir, as an acute problem has become a preoccupation for the Islamic world and it is only natural that priority is given to this issue during the meetings between heads of friendly countries which enjoy cordial and brotherly ties."

According to the paper, "the Islamic world must understand the sufferings of the people of Kashmir and adopt a united stance vis-a-vis the issue with the aim to help its Muslim people solve the problem."

On Iran's stance vis-a-vis the issue, it said, "the Islamic Republic has taken a clear stand, but the point is that other Islamic states should follow suit and adopt effective and firm policies with the aim of supporting the Kashmiri Muslim people."

The editorial also noted, "Muslim countries should know that the Muslim people of Kashmir are oppressed and stripped of their legitimate rights."

It rejected that the issue can be permanently solved by resorting to harassment, force and intimidation adding, "such an approach may even escalate the clashes and be followed by military confrontation between the two neighbours India and Pakistan."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI stressed, "such confrontations must be avoided and both sides by exercising self-restraint and adopting logical attitude, should make efforts to find an appropriate solution."

"From this point of view," it added, "Ms. Bhutto's visit gains particular importance."

The paper pointed out that the visit, the first leg of an eight nation tour, is part of Pakistan's active diplomacy to seek solution for the Kashmir issue adding "such a positive and sincere move must be welcomed and supported reciprocally."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI concluded: "the Islamic republic is highly concerned about fate of the world Muslims," and reiterated, "Iran cannot remain indifferent towards the sad and bitter events in Kashmir."

The other morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' attached importance to Ms. Bhutto's visit "since it is taking place ahead of an Islamic foreign ministers meeting this summer."

The English-language daily, too, underlined that Iran in relation to the Kashmir issue "has made its policy clear and that policy was made public by the highest authority of the country, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

On ties with Iran, it said, "as far as bilateral issues are concerned, Ms. Bhutto will have no problem in dealing with the Iranian officials and the doors of reciprocal relations are open even wider than before."

Furthermore, the paper brought to attention that the Pakistani prime minister is also welcomed by common Iranian people since she has blood links with Iran.

It concluded by hoping "her visit will provide an added platform for Iran and Pakistan to nurture closer cooperation not only on bilateral issues but also on the regional and global fronts."

Leaves Iran For Turkey

LD1605112190 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 16 May 90

[Excerpt] Tehran, May 16, IRNA—Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan left here at 10:40 local time (0710 GMT) Wednesday morning after talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and other Iranian officials. Ms. Bhutto and her entourage were officially seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by First Vice-President Hasan Habibi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, other Iranian officials and foreign diplomats in Tehran.

The Pakistani prime minister arrived in the holy city of Mashhad Tuesday morning [15 May] directly from Islamabad for a brief stopover where she and the accompanying 80-member delegation paid pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (A.S.) [may peace be upon him], the eighth imam of [the] household of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) [peace be upon him]. She flew to Tehran early in the afternoon where she was officaly welcomed.

Ms. Bhutto, the first woman prime minister to visit Iran in post-revolution decade, is touring Muslim states to gather support for the Muslim people of Kashmir and also raise issues relevant to Islam. Ms. Bhutto's next stop is Ankara and she is to resume the second round of her "peace tour" to Muslim states in early June and will visit Qatar, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain [passage omitted]

Habibi Interviewed on Visit's Outcome

LD1605122490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Our reporter conducted an interview with Mr. Habibi, first vice-president, about the outcome of Ms. Bhutto's visit to our country to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Habibi, Ms. Bhutto has just officially visited the Islamic Republic of Iran. How would you assess the outcome of this visit?

[Habibi] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Just as I mentioned yesterday at the start of her excellency's trip during the welcoming ceremonies, we do share common views with regard to bilateral issues and an important part of regional issues which include: the Afghanistan and Kashmir questions as well as those related to the Middle East, especially the uprising of the Palestinians, and also issues related to our relations in the region, including [UN] Resolution 598.

In the private talks we held yesterday at the office of His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and in the talks we had in the joint meeting attended by all the members of the delegation accompanying Ms. Bhutto and Iranian ministers, we discussed our shared views with regard to all fields. Some of the issues have become clarified for both sides, and viewpoints that have to be clarified during these kinds of trips have become so.

With regard to Kashmir, in any case as far as the Muslim people of Kashimir are concerned, we are interested in their destiny. We would be interested in seeing international laws being implemented there. With regard to Afghanistan: Free elections should definitely be held there and an independent government with an Islamic identity—bearing in mind all historic and regional characteristics of Afghanistan—should be established there. And it was stressed and confirmed that women should participate in Afghanistan's elections.

With regard to Palestine, the views of Pakistan are that it is sensitive to the Palestinian revolution and the destiny of the Palestinian people. We share these sensitivities. Our Pakistani friends also emphasized the precise implementation of Resolution 598, and we hope that the totality of relations we shall have from now on will become more profound and extensive. Some of the points of questions discussed in the joint Iran-Pakistan Commission were clarified in Tehran and this morning Ms. Bhutto said that some of the other points which were also discussed during private meetings held between (?the two sides') ministers were also clarified and that this had, on the whole, been a productive and good trip though it was a short one. [end recording]

Khorasani, UN Official Discuss Cease-Fire

LD1505162490 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 15, IRNA—Iran has completely observed the cease-fire with Iraq and fully cooperated with the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), head of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee Khorasani said here today.

He also told the visiting UN Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding, that Iraq's violations of the ceasefire have been reported to the United Nations and Iran expects the organization to publish its documents as a means of pressure on Iraq to withdraw its forces to the international borders.

Goulding reported on the situation of the UNIIMOG forces at border areas, and cited cases which need more cooperation between the United Nations and the two sides.

The U.N. official who is in charge of following up issues relevant to the UNIIMOG forces arrived here Monday [14 Monday].

Air-Naval Exercises Continue in Persian Gulf

LD1505173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Continuing the fourth phase of the joint air-naval Sahand exercises, speedboats as well as assault boats carried out operations over a marine area covering 400 sea miles in the middle of the Persian Gulf. Our correspondent reports:

[Correspondent] Continuing the fourth phase of the joint air-naval Sahand exercises, operations of speedboats and assault boats of the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] were carried out in the middle of the Persian Gulf and in the region of (Ra's al-Mutaf) over an area of 400 miles.

In these operations the self-sacrificers of the Basij [irregular forces corps] and IRGC, using speedboats, were drilled in assault operations against a hypothetical enemy. During the early stage of the operation they fired at pilotless planes and shot them down. During the same stage they held a night amphibious assault with the participation of the commandos of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the marines of the Navy of the IRGC. Using speedboats, they captured the positions of the hypothetical enemy.

Fourth Stage Completed

NC1605142390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] The final operation in the fourth phase of the joint Sahand exercises ended successfully at dawn this morning with attacks by speedboats and assault boats of the Basij [irregular forces corps] and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] against a hypothetical

enemy, and with night amphibious and group assault operations conducted by the commandos of the Armed Forces and marines of the IRGC navy.

The Central News Unit reports that in this phase of the exercises, which were observed by the commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and IRGC commanders and deputy commanders, amphibious units successfully passed through mined canals and the IRGC navy speedboats accurately and alertly tracked and shot down aircraft of the hypothetical enemy.

The report indicates that the fifth phase of the Sahand exercises will begin this morning in the middle of the northern waters of the Persian Gulf.

Fifth Stage Underway

LD1605124990 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Bushehr, May 15, IRNA—Hundreds of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) forces Wednesday launched a joint amphibious maneuver as the fifth stage of 'Sahand' military exercises started in the Persian Gulf waters Sunday [11 May]. In this stage, covering an area of 5,000 miles, the maneuvering forces penetrated deep into the positions of the hypothetical enemy and seized them.

Simultaneous with the assault of the Army and IRGC marines against hypothetical enemy forces, hideouts and equipment of the enemy were brought under the heavy fire of long-range artillery. Meanwhile, several Army C-130 aircraft disembarked paratroopers and commandos over an island belonging to the hypothetical enemy and seized the site.

The participating forces also exercised transportation of heavy equipment and mine sweeping operations, and examined their combat readiness to repel chemical attacks.

The fifth stage will continue until later Wednesday afternoon.

Minister Aqazadeh Postpones Visit to Kuwait

LD1505143890 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kuwait, May 15, IRNA—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh has indefinitely postponed his visit to Kuwait because of 'unexpected business', according to the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy here today.

Aqazadeh had been invited by his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifa al-Adbi Al Sabah to Kuwait for talks on mutual oil issues and latest developments in the world market.

Kuwait 'Revives' Democracy, Parliamentary Life

LD1405162890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 14 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti government recently released on bail 10 detained people, including two deputies of Kuwait's former national assembly. They had been arrested for taking part in a protest over the new parliamentary elections law in the (Rawzah) district in southern Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Following the dissolution of the national assembly, the electoral law was changed and extensive limitations were imposed on it, as a result of which a section of Kuwaiti citizens—that is, people whose father gained Kuwaiti citizenship after 1922—were deprived of participation in elections. The Kuwaiti government looks at that section of people as second class citizens. In addition, with the reduction of electoral constituencies to 25 in the elections for the fifth term of the national assembly, which were held nine years ago, candidates of religious groups and two nationalist Arab associations, led by Ahmed al-Khatib and Jasim al-Qatami, did not gain entry into the national assembly.

Apart from that, on the basis of Kuwait's electoral law, from the 31 percent of the country's two million population, only men who have first class citizenship have the right to take part in elections; consequently, all foreigners residing in Kuwait, Kuwaiti women, and citizens who have second class citizenship—forming over 85 percent of the population—do not have the right to take part in the elections.

A significant issue in the elections for the seventh term of Kuwait's national assembly, which will be held on 10 June, is the effects and consequences it may have on the Arabian peninsula region and the Persian Gulf Cooperation council [GCC]. The revival of democracy, albeit only in Kuwait—GCC countries do not have assemblies or parliamentary life, and countries such as Saudi Arabia do not have a constitution—will undoubtedly arouse anxiety in those governments.

The revival of parliamentary life in Kuwait will also arouse anxiety in the Iraqi regime because the dissolution of the former national assembly was due, in part, to a protest by some deputies at the level of cooperation between the Kuwaiti government and Iraq in the imposed war; something which, from the deputies' points of view, led to a violation of the country's political sovereignty. According to analysts, the future parliament—in view of the fact that the amir of Kuwait will select deputies who support him by way of direct appointment—will turn into a government-controlled assembly. In those circumstances, it would seem that the existence of Islamic and nationalist tendencies in that country, especially among intellectuals, will continue to pose problems for the Kuwaiti government.

Commentary Views Mubarak's Moscow Visit

LD1505133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 15 May 90

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] In the wake of his visits to China and North Korea, Husni Mubarak, the Egyptian president, arrived in Moscow yesterday on a short visit. This is Mubarak's first visit to the USSR as the head of the ruling regime in Egypt. The visit is unprecedented as it is the first on a leadership level between the two countries in the past 18 years.

Egyptian-Soviet relations were highly extensive during the reign of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir and the beginning of Anwar al-Sadat's presidential term, but those relations clouded over in 1350 [1971-1972], and finally diplomatic ties between the two countries were totally severed in 1360 [1981-1982]. However, following the revolutionary execution of Anwar al-Sadat by the Islamic Jihad Movement's crusaders and the accession of Husni Mubarak, these relations were improved. In 1984, diplomatic relations were resumed, with the exchange of ambassadors.

In any case, Mubarak's visit to Moscow is taking place at a time when relations between the United States and the Soviet Union have improved, a situation which has provided Egypt with the opportunity to establish relations with the Soviet Union at a higher level, without arousing U.S. wrath.

Political analysts are of the opinion that, during his visit, Husni Mubarak will discuss with the Kremlin leaders the issue of the Soviet Jews' migration to occupied Palestine, as well as the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

Since Egyptian independence in 1335 [1957-1958—as heard] until the present, the Soviet Union actively participated in Egypt's first five-year economic plan and closely cooperated in the implementation of its recent five-year plan, through direct investment and granting of loans in the fields of steel, iron, and glassmaking industries. Furthermore, it has bec.. Egypt's biggest supplier of arms in its wars against the Israeli regime. Moreover, at present, the Egyptian regime is entrapped in a political-economic crisis. Politically, the regime, through its friendship with the occupying Jerusalem regime, has become entangled in an unprecedented political straightjacket as a result of the intensification of the Islamic movement in the region and the Egyptian Muslims' support for the Palestinian Muslims uprising. Economically, the increasing population growth in that country which is among the highest in the world, and on the other hand the increasingly unfavorable balance of payments, have entangled that regime in an economic crisis.

In view of the current international equations and the present situation in the eastern bloc, Mubarak's visit has more of a political connotation than anything else.

Finally we reach the conclusion that, through this visit, Mubarak aims to camouflage the U.S. identity of his regime by establishing high level relations with the two superpowers. He also, with this visit, aims to lessen the anger of the Muslim people in the region with the Camp David regime of Egypt which has collaborated with the Zionist enemy over various issues, even that of Soviet Jewish immigration, by discussing the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine as the most important clause on the agenda of discussion between the Egyptian and Soviet leaders.

Khamene'i Addresses Clerics, Comments on Islam

LD1205232490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 12 May 90

[Speech by Ayatollah Khamene'i to a gathering of clerics for Friday Prayers in Mazanderan Province on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, received the clerics, the Friday Prayers Imams, and various strata of people from the province of Mazanderan, this evening. The leader of the Islamic revolution, while giving a general analysis of the world's industrial civilization [Tamadon-e sana'ti] and its incompatibility with religion and spiritualism, graciously described at the meeting the victory of the great Islamic revolution in Iran as the barrier to that rising trend.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i graciously remarked on the sensitivity and significance of the times in which we are living, and graciously elaborated on the history of the creation of the industrial civilization, referring to the inclination towards industrialization, science, and new methods, as well as the inclination towards materialistic philosophy, as the peculiarities of that trend.

He graciously added: The philosophical and social treaties of the past two centuries were mostly incompatible with religion—a tendency which gradually infiltrated the minds and lives of the people, as well as the interactions among families and the community on the whole. Politics, alongside that trend to contradict religion and spiritualism and any point involving greater spiritualism, came under greater scrutiny, too.

His eminence graciously remarked on the various means of aggression, and the infiltration of that trend in the Islamic world, and referring to ways through materialistic thinking is strengthened by money, science, inventions and various resources, he graciously said: At a juncture, the basis of which was built by taking the entire materialistic calculations into account, and by which the future of humanity was predicted as rising towards spiritual qualms and the pinnacle of materialistic thought, a sudden phenomenon occured in the world which was that of the religious and spiritual movement, the flame of which was lit in Iran in 1341 [21 March 1970-20 March 1971; the year Khomeyni was exiled to Nafaj], and culminated in the establishment of the Islamic Republic, on 11 February 1978.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i remarked on the way the domineering systems in the world were taken by surprise at the establishment of a country based on religion and spiritualism, and graciously said: With the eruption of the Islamic revolution, the global powers began to think of solutions and remedies, but failed to succeed, and whatever blow they delivered to the revolution and the divine system served to strengthen the influence of its spiritualism among the Muslim nations, further attracting their attention.

The leader of the Islamic revolution graciously specified: That trend which was escalating was cut short, and we are now at the point where it was amputated. You and I are those very persons whose actions, wills, and determination will be able to draw up this path and guarantee its continuation and vigor. If we move on the right path, then the global situation will alter, and without any doubt, spiritualism will regain its position in the world.

The Vali-ye Amr [guardian of the cause] of the world Muslims graciously referred to the inability of those global powers, such as America, to destroy the rapidly advancing Islamic movement, and graciously said: The purity of this system and the stance and resistance of the great Iranian nation will bring about deeper and more reanimating repercussions in the Islamic world. He graciously added: In spite of the massive material and spiritual blows inflicted upon our nation by the imposed war, they served to strengthen Islam. The world of arrogance comprising Europe and the NATO and Warsaw pacts have joined hands, assisting Iraq so as to create partition in our country through toppling the system of the Islamic Republic. However, our nation managed to defeat its foes, giving Islam glory and splendor.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the opposition of the Islamic revolution to the current domineering systems, graciously adding: We oppose the idea that, in the arena of life and the world politics, few major and wealthy powers should hold the right to take the fates of the other nations in their hands, and we will not accept export of the corrupt European culture to other societies, each of which have their own culture.

The leader of the Islamic revolution recounted examples from the cultural decadence in the West, and while reiterating the necessity to keep away from narcissim, conceit, and struggle for worldy affairs, graciously said: If we choose to defend Islam, present in such strength in the world's political arena, we should act with rational, logical, and sincere spiritualism, so as to guarantee the society's movement towards spiritualism, and to that end the flagbearers of religion should not disseminate anything which may indicate a retreat from spiritualism, since that would deliver a blow to the spiritual movement.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to solidarity, unity, and the unanimity of word among the entire Islamic sects as the principle condition for providing a logical response to the spiritual needs of all people in the world, and while reiterating the necessity of deepening the people's Islamic and religious thought from the scientific point of view, called on all people to further unite and care for one another.

In part of his speech, the leader of the Islamic revolution also remarked on the significant role played by the inhabitants of Mazanderan in the course of the Islamic revolution, and graciously said: Mazanderan has been one of the main centers providing assistance to and support for the revolution, and the inhabitants of that province delivered a hard blow to the mouths of those who had underestimated their faith in Islam and the revolution.

On the basis of that report, in the meeting at which the 'ulema, the Friday imams and the Shia and Sunni clerics of the Mazanderan Province were present, Hojjaj ol-Eslam Ruhani and Nour-Mofadi, the representatives of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in Mazanderan and Gorgan va Dasht, in brief speeches, honored the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and termed the profound link between the ummah and the imam and leader of the Islamic revolution as the greatest and most significant protector of the country, Islam, and the Koran.

Prosecutor Bans Profit-Sharing Companies

LD1505135590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tehran's Prosecutor General announced in a statement: The companies known as Muzarebe'i [profit-sharing companies formed after the revolution on the basis of Islamic transactions, paying a share of the profits to shareholders instead of interests] are illegal and no company or institution except the banks enjoy legal recognition for profit-sharing activities. In this statement, Tehran's prosecutor general stressed: Those who, in the name of Muzarebe'i companies, through fradulent activities cause people's loss will be prosecuted for fraud. Also from now on those who deposit their funds with such illegal companies should not expect any legal or executive support.

Another part of the statement of Tehran's prosecutor general, referring to agreements which have been signed between commercial companies and a number of people as investors, said: These agreements are often of a secular nature and have been reached without attention to the [Islamic] conditions and regulations covering such transactions, especially laws governing profit-sharing. The profit which these companies have paid to the investors were not the result of commercial activities, but were paid from the capital of the deposits which were constantly received by such companies.

MEDNEWS on Visits by IMF, World Bank

LD1405103590 Kuwait KUNA in English 0913 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] Paris, May 14 (KUNA)—A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) visited Tehran in early March to discuss remodeling Iran's economy in an effort to attract Western investment, it was reported here Monday.

In a dispatch from Washington, the Middle East affairs bi-weekly, MEDNEWS, quoted sources in Washington as saying that an agreement between the IMF and Iran might facilitate financing of Iranian project [as received] by the World Bank.

The sources said that a top-secret World Bank delegation also visited Tehran recently, while the Iranian daily, "KEYHAN", said Iran planned to ask the World Bank to help fund four dams to be built in various parts of the country.

They added that the World Bank financing will depend on Iran coming to an agreement with the IMF, negotiations which are expected a good two years. [as received]

In an initial step towards this agreement, Iran has promised as part of its five-year development plan to gradually eliminate government subsidies on basic goods and consumer products.

MEDNEWS said the government of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is desperate to obtain Western loans, in order to bail Iran out of a catastrophic economic situation.

INA Cites Persian Radio on Demonstrations

JN1505094090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Tehran, 15 May (INA)—Thousands of people have participated in a demonstration in the Iranian city of Mashhad to protest the [Iranian] regime's repressive measures, price increases, and the unavailability of basic commodities.

In a report in Persian received in Baghdad today, Radio Mujahed, organ of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, said that the demonstration began in the street of [name indistinct] in Mashhad on 10 May, and spread to other streets in the city. The radio added out that the police closed streets leading to the city and attacked demonstrators in an attempt to disperse them. The radio reported that the demonstration lasted all day Thursday, and that demonstrators destroyed a number of government cars and buses.

It should be noted that Tehran and other Iranian cities have seen massive demonstrations against the regime, in which dozens of people have been killed or wounded.

Protests in Tehran, Other Cities Reported

TA1505135990 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 14 May 90

[Text] On Saturday, 13 May, the citizens of Tehran staged demonstrations in Pahlavi Street against the Islamic Republic regime. According to a report we received, in the course of the demonstrations severe clashes took place between the people and the repressive Hezbollah guards. In these clashes, which went on throughout the day, the people chanted slogans against Khamene'i and Rafsanjani.

Another report indicates that yesterday scattered demonstrations were held in five other Tehran neighborhoods against the regime, and the citizens staged marches while chanting the slogans: Death to Khamene'i, Death to Rafsanjani.

According to reports, other marches were held in Qazvin, Karaj, Mashhad, and Qom simultaneously with the anti-regime demonstrations in Tehran. The marchers chanted slogans against Khamene'i.

*Ambiguities in Gas Deal With USSR Reported

90AS0048E London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Two weeks ago, sources in the Islamic Republic announced that the sale of gas to the Soviet Union had begun again from Monday, 9 April. In Tehran, comprehensive information has been published about the contract to sell gas to the Soviet Union, and the existing official information has also been extracted from the statements made by some of the officials.

According to the new contract, the Government of Iran will export three billion cubic meters of gas to the Soviet Union. The period of this contract is 15 years and can be extended to 20 years. Also, the statements of the officials indicates that the volume of gas exported may increase up to 8 billion cubic meters.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum of the Islamic regime, said in an interview in Tehran that the annual revenues from the sale of gas to the Soviet Union would be $300 million. This amount will be deposited in a special account to be used for the cost of projects carried out with Soviet technical assistance. He had told a foreign journalist earlier that the annual revenues from the sale of gas to the Soviet Union would be $260 million.

Aqazadeh did not clearly explain the price of gas and only said: "It was discussed for some time, and finally the price was set based on international rates, which fluctuate. In other words, at the end of every month, taking into consideration the current international rates, the amount for the Iranian gas sent to the Soviet Union will be calculated and deposited in a special account."

Mohammad Esma'il Karachian, the deputy minister of petroleum and general manager of the national Iranian gas company, said in an interview with JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: "The volume of exported gas in the beginning will average 8 million cubic meters daily (equivalent to 3 billion cubic meters annually), which will increase in the future if later agreements are signed.

According to Karachian, the Iranian gas exported to the Soviet Union will be provided from the Kangan gas refinery in the southern oil reserves of the country. Karachian explained: "The export of gas to the Soviet Union will not harm domestic gas provisions. The country's natural gas production capability is sufficient for more consumption and export."

The export of gas to the Soviet Union involves the Igat One pipeline, which is 1,106 km long from the south of Iran to the Iran-Soviet border in Astara. This pipeline, which was completed before the revolution and was in operation for many years, has the capacity to carry more than 10 billion cubic meters of gas annually.

In 1979, when in accordance with existing agreements between Iran and the Soviet Union it was time to revise the price of exported gas, the Soviet officials refused to revise the price, and after about two years, the export of natural gas to the Soviet Union stopped.

None of the statements of the officials indicate any clear information about the base price of gas. If we accept the above-mentioned statements about the projected annual revenues from the sale of natural gas ($300 million), a simple calculation indicates that the gas will be sold for 10 cents (1/10 of the American dollar) per cubic meter. This seems very exaggerated, since the Soviet Union presently sells its gas in Europe at an average price of six cents per cubic meter. How could the Soviet Union sell natural gas at six cents per cubic meter in Europe, which is a real market for natural gas, and buy the same amount for 10 cents at the Astara border, which is far away from the consumer centers?

On the other hand, the money for the gas will not be paid to Iran in foreign currency, but in the form of funds in a bank account to be used for the purchase of equipment from the Soviet Union. No one knows how the price of such equipment will be set. In fact, it will be controlled by the Soviets.

Following the announcement of the resumption of the export of gas to the Soviet Union, Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum, announced that six European countries have requested to purchase gas from Iran. He said that most of these countries are in Eastern Europe, the names of which will be announced after the finalization of the proposal and volume requested.

He said: The delivery of gas to these countries will be carried out through Turkey, through a new pipeline which is under construction. It should be explained that the construction of this pipeline which began before the revolution remains incomplete, and discussions about its completion and installation through Turkish soil to Europe have been under way for years. Still no significant steps have been taken to complete this project. It is unclear how many years or decades the Eastern European countries which can no longer make use of Soviet energy resources must wait to make use of Iranian gas.

*Reza Pahlavi Condemns Western Media, Governments

90AS0046M London KEYHAN in Persian
3 May 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] At the National Press Club, Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian king, condemned the Western mass media and Western governments, particularly the United States, which at the wink of an eye by the terrorist, hostage-taking regime of the Islamic Republic ignores all moral principles and true interests of the Iranians in order to improve its relations with the Islamic regime.

Reza Pahlavi, who spoke to major American journalists and correspondents of international news agencies on Monday morning [30 April] at the National Press Club, criticized the Western media for ignoring the internal changes in Iran and the actions of the Iranians inside the country in fighting the regime of the Islamic Republic and said:

"Fortunately, the internal conditions of Iran have recently turned in a tangible way against the regime of the Islamic Republic. But such changes are neither reported in the Western newspapers nor discussed in the corridors of the power capitals of these countries."

The Iranian king called the show of peace by the regime of the Islamic Republic the result of the fear and inability of the regime and emphasized that now after 11 years when the realities have come to the surface, even the enthusiastic Hezbollah supporters have turned away from the Islamic regime, and such realities have forced the regime to retreat.

Reza Pahlavi emphasized that what the regime publicizes about the enmity and hatred of the Iranian people towards the West is not true, and Iranians have never felt enmity and hostility towards the West and do not support hostage taking and terrorism. But the regime of the Islamic Republic, in showing such false pictures of Iranians, which are also reported in the Western media, makes the Western media indifferent to the domestic changes in Iran. Then, with the release of one hostage, it is as if it has done the West a great favor, and the Westerners ignore these realities. Under such circumstances, Iran's chances for moving toward freedom and civilization are reduced.

The Iranian king referred to the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi in Geneva and said: Only a few days had passed since the release of a Western hostage when the regime assassinated one of its opponents in Switzerland.

Reza Pahlavi said: The people of my country, who are doing their utmost to establish a regime with proper and logical views and policies in place of this regime, are more sensitive than ever before to the correct understanding and recognition of their situation and suffering on the part of the Western media.

The Iranian king criticized dealing over the release of hostages and said: The Westerners close their eyes to what is happening to the suffering people of Iran.

He added: "The young generation of the country, which makes up the majority of the society, is full of hope and free of despair. They have eyes to see and understand the problems well."

Reza Pahlavi said: "Everywhere but in the Middle East, freedom is spreading. But no tangible progress is made in the world to strengthen and support the freedom-loving forces in Iran."

The Iranian king spoke about the permanent importance of Iran and emphasized that despite the change in the strategic scenario of the region, Iran, as the most populated country and the owner of energy resources, will preserve its importance: "Hence, it appears that the U.S. Government and the mass media of this country take the wishes of the Islamic regime more seriously than the fate of the Iranian people and do not give the needed support to those who are risking their lives inside and outside the country to liberate Iran."

The Iranian king told the journalists: "Do not take me wrong. The people of Iran do not expect others to easily open the doors of freedom to them. Their urgent and vital need is to see that the world has not forgotten them and that the United States supports freedom, not only in word but in deed."

He referred to the role of the Western media in reporting the events in China and said: If such support were given to the Iranian people, they would be able to fight with more energy.

Reza Pahlavi referred to his 14-article communique and said: I have asked my compatriots to unite most freely and without any preconditions and, since nothing can be achieved without the will and wishes of the Iranian people in a free and fair referendum, by accepting this issue, to join forces to be free of this dictatorship.

The Iranian king emphasized that following the efforts of various political factions who oppose the regime, at the present, all the forces are cooperating to establish a liberation movement in Iran. But the U.S. media neither reports nor writes anything concerning these events of recent months.

He asked the representatives of the Western media not to stop with reports on the issue of the hostages alone and to rest assured that Iranians do not expect anything but reporting the actual news of the country and support for establishing true freedom in their country.

In conclusion, the Iranian king emphasized: The common interests of all interested groups in changing the regime is clear.

The first and most important wish of these groups is to create a free Iran. They want to eliminate government terrorism and kidnapping in Iran and put an end to murder, treason, and hijacking.

They want to see an end to the support for chaos and unrest in Lebanon, which is one of the obstacles to establishing peace and ending the conflicts in the Middle East. These are all the demands, the attainment of which will greatly benefit world peace and stability.

*Karaj Prison Head Assassinated; Strikes Reported

90AS0048D London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] According to reports from Tehran, Seyyed Reza Musavi-Qoreyshi, the head of the Gowhar-Dasht Prison of Karaj, who was known as the "Executioner of Karaj," was assassinated by an unknown group on the road between Qazvin and Karaj. The attackers, who had blocked the road to the car carrying the prison head of Gowhar-Dasht and his guards, killed him with machine-gun fire and without leaving any trace escaped the scene of the incident. The driver and the guard of Seyyed Reza Musavi were injured in this incident.

The report indicates that as yet, no one has been arrested by the regime in connection with the murder of the Gowhar-Dasht Prison head.

It is said that Seyyed Reza Musavi-Qoreyshi was a suppressive element of the regime and treated the political prisoners violently and inhumanely. He was merciless in torturing and executing prisoners, and for this reason had earned the nickname "Executioner of Karaj."

It is also said that the direct interference of Seyyed Reza Musavi-Qoreyshi in the mass executions of political prisoners last year had created a deep hatred for him among the prisoners and the relatives of the executed.

IRNA and Radio Tehran made no mention of the assassination of the head of the Gowhar-Dasht Prison of Karaj in their reports, and none of the news agencies in Tehran have yet verified this report.

INDEPENDENT, published in London, also published the news of the assassination of Seyyed Reza Musavi-Qoreyshi, the head of the Gowhar-Dasht Prison of Karaj, on Saturday this week [21 April] and states: The head of the Gowhar-Dasht Prison of Karaj was killed in a daring guerilla operation on the Karaj-Qazvin road. INDEPENDENT, quoting sources opposing the regime, has verified that Seyyed Reza Musavi-Qoreyshi was personally involved in the mass executions at the Gowhar-Dasht Prison.

According to political observers, the political assassination of one of the oppressive agents of the regime, particularly given the present disturbances in the country, can have a very negative effect on the morale of the Hezbollah elements of the regime, who have engaged with peace of mind in the suppression, torture, and slaughter of the opponents of the regime in the past few years.

Strike at the University of Tabriz

According to available reports, last week, the students of Tabriz University, protesting the arrest of several clerics opposing the regime in Tabriz, engaged in strikes and refused to attend classes.

Following the refusal of students to attend classes and their assembly on the campus of the university, guards of the revolutionary committee, in order to prevent the

continuation of the assembly of students, entered the university and prohibited the gathering of more than three students on one spot.

It is said that the arrest of the clerics opposing the regime was the consequence of their statements on pulpits and in gatherings held to mourn the martyrdom of his holiness 'Ali in the month of Ramadan.

Nepal & Bhutan

King Dissolves Constitutional Drafting Commission

BK1505130690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 15 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal Tuesday [15 May] dissolved a controversial constitutional drafting commission after one hour and 45 minutes of talks with Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The king's unilateral naming of the commission Friday [11 May] had brought the country to the brink of a new political crisis.

"His majesty the king with the consultation of the prime minister has dissolved the recently announced constitutional commission," a statement released by Mr. Bhattarai's office after the talks stated.

"The king ... has called on the prime minister to recommend as early as possible the names and formation of a new constitutional recommendation commission after consulting the cabinet," the Prime Minister's Office statement said. It added that "all parties concerned, as well as Nepalese from all different walks of life" should be consulted as far as possible to facilitate the interim government's task of holding general elections.

"I think sincerely this must solve the crisis," Mr. Bhattarai said when asked if he thought the king's move would solve the crisis. "I will submit the new list (of members of the commission) very soon, maybe early next week," he told reporters here.

A separate statement from the same office said that the king had asked the prime minister to "bring for appropriate action any repeal, dissolution or ammendment of any constitutional provisions and laws necessary for the smooth functioning of the interim government."

The second move, observers said, appeared to have been made by the king to help the interim government to maintain law and order before the new constitution comes into effect.

The statement stipulated that the actions should be taken "within the framework of a multiparty democracy in a constitutional monarchy."

Envoy Says France To Aid in Electrification

BK1505154690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1538 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] Kathmandu, May 15 (AFP)—French ambassador Rolland Barraux told Mahendra Narayan Nidhi, Nepal's minister for water resources and local development, on Monday [14 May] that France would help extend electrification services in the country, an official here said. The official said Mr. Nidhi thanked the French Government for the help it has provided in high technology and other development projects.

Mr. Barraux, referring to cooperation being extended by France in communications, civil aviation and water resources, said France intended to provide as much aid as possible to Nepal in the future. Mr. Barraux also said that France would continue to help Nepal reduce the consumption of firewood by extending electrification, which he hoped would improve the Nepalese living standard.

The outgoing ambassador said that Paris was interested in establishing various joint ventures in Nepal. Joint Franco-Nepalese ventures already include a public-limited commercial bank and an herbal industry.

Pakistan

Spokesman Denies Border Clashes, Troop Buildup

BK1505153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today discounted exaggerated reports by Indian news agencies regarding armed clashes along the Line of Control in Kashmir. The spokesman also described as baseless other reports regarding concentration of Pakistani troops and tanks opposite Jammu and Jorian.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA had alleged that five Pakistani soldiers were killed and a large number wounded in an exchange of fire with Indian troops in the Poonch sector. The spokesman said that the exchange of fire occurred in the Poonch sector during the last two days when the Indian troops, objecting to the Pakistanis repairing a bunker on the Line of Control, started firing. One Pakistani was killed and one wounded in these clashes, while Indians were observed evacuating two casualties.

The spokesman termed as baseless Indian reports alleging concentration of Pakistani troops along the Line of Control. He added that Pakistan had already announced that its soldiers were out in small groups carrying out routine summer training well away from the border. This fact, well-known to the Indian authorities, should not be misinterpreted as concentration of forces.

Bhutto's Tour of Islamic Nations Analyzed

BK1605051890 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 16 May 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The Kashmir issue is the main topic being raised by Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on the eight-nation tour she has just started. Ms. Bhutto's first stop is Iran. There, and on the rest of her tour, Ms. Bhutto will be seeking support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir before next month's foreign ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Our Islamabad correspondent Lyce Doucet reports:

[Begin recording] Both domestic and international compulsions are behind Ms. Bhutto's whirlwind tour. At home, she is facing growing criticism that her government has not done enough to promote the Kashmir issue, and there has been little international support, even from Islamic countries, for Pakistan's views that Kashmiris must be given their right of self-determination. So far, only Iran has issued strong protests against the situation of Kashmiri Muslims who have been clashing with Indian security forces in their campaign for independence. The silence can be partly explained by the close ties some Islamic nations maintain with India and their desire for Pakistan and India to resolve the situation themselves. Diplomats from countries Ms. Bhutto will visit say they have received assurances from Pakistan's foreign minister that any resolution of the ICO would not seek to condemn India. But, sources say Ms. Bhutto will be looking for solidarity against what Islamabad sees as a growing threat to its security from India. She also hopes the Islamic countries will uphold United Nations resolutions calling for a plebiscite in Kashmir—resolutions India says are now invalid. Pakistani sources admit this tour could anger India and even escalate tension, but they maintain their attempt to discuss Kashmir has failed. India says it is an internal problem. [end recording]

Ban on CIA 'License To Kill' Reportedly Lifted

BK1405071390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 14 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "License To Kill]

[Text] According to a recent report, President George Bush has decided to lift the 15-year-old ban on the assassination of foreign leaders. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), being the affected party in this case, is apparently thrilled at the prospect. In any case, the outgoing Chief Legal Advisor to the CIA, Russel Brummar, has been quoted as saying that CIA agents need no longer fear disciplinary action for breaches of the ban. President Ford imposed the ban in 1976 in the wake of revelations to the effect that the CIA had attempted to assassinate Fidel Castro as well as other leaders. President Carter enlarged on the executive order, stipulating that "no person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassinations." While the order was adopted by President Reagan, it was not particularly enforced while he was in the White House. Among other ventures, the CIA was involved in a bombing outrage in March 1985, directed a the Lebanese leader, Sheikh Mohammad Fadlallah. In a more blatantly overt move, US combat aircraft targeted the Libyan leader al-Qadhdhafi residence in a bid to kill him as well as his family.

However, it is the US intelligence agencies whose large-scale involvement in such ventures is a matter of concern. When it comes to dealing with weaker, especially Third World countries, the superpowers have been wont to transgress the norms of international conduct in pursuit of what they deem to be their national interests. More so when they are assured of not being challenged, in consequences. The post-War East-West polarisation, in addition to its attendant evils like the arms race and proxy wars, also provided a kind of balance of power systems which yielded some room for manoeuvre to Third World countries.

But when the Soviet Union as part of perestroika and glasnost decided to radically reduce its military presence outside its own borders, the hope was that the other superpower would avail of the opportunity to work out a more civilised code of international conduct. However, President Bush, the former CIA Director who spoke glowingly of "a gentler America" during his election campaign, probably did not have the Third World in mind. This was borne out fairly rapidly after he assumed office as he sent in US forces to invade Nicaragua [as published] in order to apprehend President Noreiga, wanted on drug-related charges in the US. That in doing so the United States seemed least concerned with the fact that it was thereby contravening international law and the soveriegn rights of a Third World country, is reflective of an attitude that lends credence to the report that the ban on CIA assassinations is being lifted and Congressional approval sought to that end. If it does come about, the worst sufferers will be the poorer Third World countries which, given the change in Soviet policies, are now regarded by the US as fair game for virtually no-holds-barred covert activity. We can only hope that saner elements in Congress will prevail and check any move that gives the CIA a free hand in killing political leaders in pursuit of US policy objectives. A policy based on murder and assassination may be appropriate for the mafia but certainly not for a superpower that should remain answerable to international opinion as well as to its own people.

Youth Goodwill Delegation Leaves for USSR

BK1305103590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 13 May 90

[Text] A 10-member goodwill delegation of youths led by Pervez Ali Shah, the minister of state for youth affairs, left Islamabad for Moscow today. During the visit, the

delegation will seek technical assistance for youth centers being set up in the country.

Seven Reported Killed, 60 Wounded in Hyderabad

BK1605034490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] In Pakistan, seven more persons were gunned down and 60 others wounded in Hyderabad city in the Sindh Province yesterday as armed clashes and indiscriminate firing continued throughout the day. The death toll in the fresh outbreak of violence since Monday [14 May] has gone up to 10. The curfew has now been extended to the entire Hyderabad city, and the Army has been asked to stand by to assist the civil authorities in restoring law and order.

Meanwhile, Karachi also experienced indiscriminate firing by unknown gunmen in different parts of the city yesterday in which two people were killed and several others wounded.

Sri Lanka

State Defense Minister Meets EPRLF Delegation

BK1505145290 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] A delegation from the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] consisting of S. Premachandran, M.P. [Member of Parliament]; G. Yogasankari, M.P.; Abu Yusuf; and Mr. P. Kirupakaran met Honorable Ranjan Wijeratne, minister of state for defense, and Mr. Badman Weerakoon, presidential adviser, at 1000 [0430 GMT] in Parliament today.

The delegation expressed its appreciation at the opportunity provided by the government to initiate a dialogue with the EPRLF. The delegation placed before the minister of state for defense their concern regarding the law and order situation in the northeast, the uncertain status of the northeastern provincial administration, and their readiness to cooperate in establishing peace and democracy in the northeastern province. The delegation took the opportunity of explaining the circumstances that have regretfully compelled them to make a declaration regarding the establishment of a democratic republic of Eelam in 1991 and reiterated their commitment to resolving the problems of the Tamil people within a united Sri Lanka.

The minister of state for defense pointed out that the appropriate forum for discussion and consensus on the issues submitted, including the 19-point program of the EPRLF, was the all-party conference.

The delegation agreed to consider seriously and positively without any prejudice participating in the all-party conference process as part of a continuing dialogue with the government.

Government Agrees To Consider Demands

BK1505162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has agreed to consider the 19-point charter of demands suggested by EPRLF as a basis to resolve the island country's ethnic problem. An agreement to this effect was reached at the first meeting between the Sri Lankan plantation minister, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, and the four member EPRLF delegation led by Mr. Suresh Premachandran, in Colombo today.

During the meeting, the EPRLF delegation urged the Sri Lankan government to restore peace and normalcy in the northeastern provinces at the earliest.